

WILD WEATHER

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Hundreds of snow plows and salt spreaders took to the highways of the nation's heartland Wednesday, preparing for a winter storm that could dump up to a foot of snow in some areas and bring dangerous freezing rain and sleet to others. Winter storm warnings

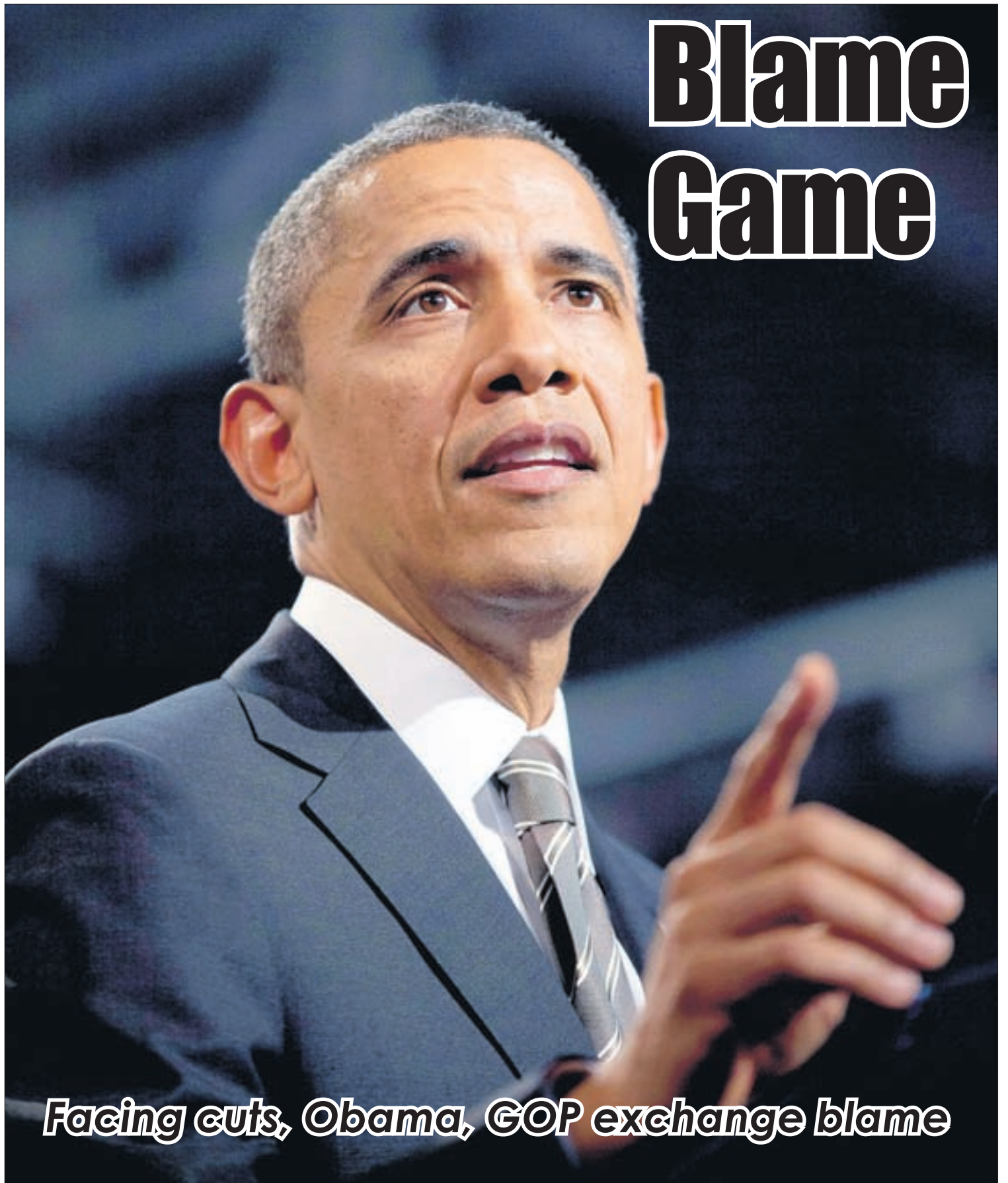


Snow falls during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Ross Franklin)

were issued from Colorado through Illinois. By midday Wednesday, heavy snow was already falling in Colorado and western Kansas. National Weather Service meteorologist Jayson Goselin said parts of Colorado, Kansas and northern Missouri could get 10 to 12 inches of snow. Dodge City, Kan., was bracing for up to 16 inches of snow. Further south, freezing rain and sleet could make driving treacherous. Officials feared the winter storm would be the worst in the Midwest since the Groundhog Day blizzard in 2011.

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Blame Game

Facing cuts, Obama, GOP exchange blame

President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks at Hyde Park Academy in Chicago, promoting the economic plan he laid out in his State of the Union address.

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The still-weak U.S. economy is just days away from taking a new fiscal body blow, with congressional Republicans and the White House more intent on blaming

each other for the latest budget crisis than on negotiating a deal to avoid \$85 billion in automatic government spending cuts. The looming cuts, which would initially affect government spending between March 1 and the

Sept. 30 end of the federal fiscal year, were enacted to overcome a budgeting standoff two years ago and were designed to be so distasteful to the core interests of both Republicans and Democrats that they would force more target-

ed reductions.

The effects of the maneuver — known as the sequester — will stretch on for a decade, slashing nearly \$1 trillion more out of federal spending.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Facing cuts, Obama, GOP exchange blame

Continued from front

The sequester battle is just the latest in a series of fiscal fights since Republicans retook control of the House of Representatives in 2010, determined to blunt President Barack Obama's legislative agenda, shrink the size of government, cut spending and lower taxes. Last-minute bargaining has so far averted dramatic outcomes like the shut-down of government for lack of funding or a U.S. default on its loan payments because Congress denied the government's need to increase its borrowing limit. But with no deal in sight this time, the bitter budget cuts look likely to take effect. Congress is not even returning to session until Monday, four days before the March 1 deadline to reach a compromise. The cuts will be draconian, hitting the military, education, research and development, and even core security agencies including the FBI, the Coast Guard and border patrols.

Obama called it a "meat cleaver" approach to debt reduction.

At issue is a spiraling national debt that has surpassed \$16 trillion, pushed to that extraordinary level by declining tax revenue and the vast sums of money that Obama pumped into the economy after taking office during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression

of the 1930s. The national debt had already doubled during President George W. Bush's eight years at the White House and was

his convincing re-election in November elections, which also saw his fellow Democrats gain seats in the House and widen their



House Budget Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., right, and the committee's ranking Democrat Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

about \$10.6 trillion when he left office in 2009.

The sequester, as dangerous as it may be for the U.S. economy and its slow recovery from the Great Recession, is only one symptom of the partisan divide crippling American politics. The ideological gap grew more acute with the ascent of the conservative tea party movement that propelled Republicans to retake the House in 2010. After that election, Republicans were able to stymie most of Obama's legislative agenda.

The president has seemed determined to break out of that legislative box since

majority in the Senate. With talks on a sequester compromise non-existent, Obama has turned to campaign-style exhortations directed at voters, hoping to pressure recalcitrant Republicans to give ground. Obama campaigned for re-election on promises to make the economy fairer, restore opportunity for the middle class and raise taxes on the wealthiest. He won a partial victory in December when Republicans, divided and unable to rally behind an alternative plan put forward by House Speaker John Boehner, agreed to allow Bush-era tax cuts to

expire for Americans earning more than \$400,000 a year. Obama had initially pushed for the taxes to expire for those making more than \$200,000 a year.

Now the president, pushing a hard bargain over the sequester, wants to further raise taxes on certain wealthy individuals and corporations by eliminating loopholes that allowed them to vastly reduce reported income.

"So now Republicans in Congress face a simple choice," Obama said Tuesday. "Are they willing to compromise to protect vital investments in education and health care and national security and all the jobs that depend on them? Or would they rather put hundreds of thousands of jobs and our entire economy at risk just to protect a few special-interest tax loopholes that benefit only the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations?"

Answering Obama for the Republicans, Boehner shot back: "The president offered no credible plan that can pass Congress — only more calls for higher taxes. He said Obama's desire for more tax revenue is a dead issue.

The sequester law exempts the federal Social Security pension program, Medicaid health care and food stamps for the poor and Medicare health insurance available to Americans at age 65. □

White House announces it's new anti-theft trade strategy

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration announced new efforts Wednesday to fight the growing theft of American trade secrets, a broad but relatively restrained response to a rapidly emerging global problem that was brought into sharp focus this week by fresh evidence linking cyberstealing to China's military.

The administration says indications are that economic espionage is increasing, not only through electronic intrusion over the Internet but also through the recruitment of former employees of U.S. companies with knowledge of inside trade information.

Wednesday's Obama administration report did not target any one violator, but the China problem was evident in the case studies it cited. Those examples did not involve cyberattacks but rather the theft of hundreds of millions of dollars in trade secrets by former employees of U.S. corporations including Ford Motor Co., DuPont Co., General Motors Corp., Cargill, Dow Chemical Co., Valspar and Motorola.

The administration report didn't threaten any specific consequences for theft of trade secrets, and no new fines or other trade actions were announced. It included five actions to protect American innovation:

- Applying diplomatic pressure by senior officials to foreign leaders to discourage theft.

- Promoting best practices to help industries protect against theft.

- Enhancing U.S. law enforcement operations to increase investigations and prosecutions.

- Reviewing U.S. laws to determine if they need to be strengthened to protect against theft.

- Beginning a public awareness campaign. □

Twin storms blanket West Coast , Midwest

Continued from front

A two-day storm that began Feb. 1, 2011, was blamed in about two dozen deaths and left hundreds of thousands without power, some for several days. At its peak, the storm created white-out conditions so intense that Interstate 70 was shut down across the entire state of Missouri.

"We're not going to see that type of storm, but it's certainly the most impactful in the last two winters,"

said Gosselin, who works in suburban St. Louis.

"Sleet is no fun to drive on," Gosselin said. "Especially if you get a couple of inches, which could happen. It doesn't melt, and it's very heavy to move. It's difficult to shovel, you can't really plow it and the chemicals don't work as well."

Much of Kansas was expected to get up to a foot of snow, which many rural residents welcomed after nearly a year of drought. Meanwhile, a separate snow storm caught many drivers by surprise in Cali-

fornia, leaving hundreds stranded on mountain highways. A 35-mile stretch of Highway 58 between Mojave and Bakersfield was closed Wednesday, and several school districts closed.

No injuries were reported. Schools also were closed in northern Arizona and Colorado with snow there. Mindy Crane, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Transportation, said hundreds of plows had been deployed for what was expected to be one of the most significant

snow storms of the season. Just the threat of snow had a big impact in Nebraska, where lawmakers cancelled Thursday afternoon committee hearings and University of Nebraska officials moved a Big 10 men's basketball game against Iowa from Thursday to Saturday.

Gosselin said precipitation is generally expected to drop off as the storm makes its way east.

Chicago and parts of Indiana, he said, could get about 2 inches of snow and some sleet. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: Pope Benedict is resigning on Feb. 28. The last pope to resign did so about 600 years ago. What was the reason for that pope's resignation?

-- **Kathy McDonough, Peachtree Corners, Ga.**

A: Pope Gregory XII resigned in 1415 to help end the Western Schism, which split the Catholic Church from 1378-1417. Gregory was among three men who claimed the papacy; the others were Avignon Pope Benedict XIII and Pisa Pope John XXIII. Each claimant had his "own following, his own Sacred College of Cardinals and his own administrative offices," according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

John XXIII was deposed and the claims of Benedict XIII were dismissed, leading to the election of Pope Martin V in 1417, which ended the schism.

Q: Several days ago I received a YouTube clip where a national newscaster stated that the killer used four pistols to kill the Connecticut schoolchildren. He indicated the assault rifle was in the killer's car and never fired. Since then, I have heard several local newscasters state that an assault rifle was used. Please clarify.

-- **Larry Fountain, Dunwoody, Ga.**

A: Lt. J. Paul Vance of the Connecticut State Police reiterated last month that Adam Lanza killed 20 children and six school employees with a Bushmaster XM-15 E2S rifle that had a 30-round magazine. "There's no doubt that the rifle was used solely to kill 26 people in that school," Vance said in a news conference on Jan. 24.

The state also issued a release on Jan. 18 "to eliminate any confusion or misinformation." It stated the Bushmaster, a Glock 10mm handgun and a Sig-Sauer P226 9mm handgun were found inside Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Q: When did the post office stop twice-a-day deliveries? I am old enough to remember them!

-- **William Johnston, Peachtree Corners, Ga.**

A: The U.S. Post Office stopped delivering mail twice a day in 1950 to save money. The USPS recently announced it was stopping Saturday mail delivery, starting in August.

Q: I know first class mail will not be delivered on Saturdays starting in August, but what about outgoing first class mail? If I have my mailbox flag up to send out a greeting card or last-minute bill payment, will the mailman take it?

-- **M.K. Youngdale, Woodstock, Ga.**

A: There will be no collection of outgoing mail from homes on Saturdays, beginning in August, a spokesman with the United States Postal Service told Q-and-A on the News in an email. Only packages will be delivered to home addresses on Saturdays. Mail will be delivered to post office boxes, and post offices currently open on Saturdays will remain open. The move is expected to save the post office \$2 billion a year.

Q: You wrote that the Budweiser ad featuring the Clydesdale was the top commercial of the Super Bowl, according to viewers. Which commercials finished second, third, fourth and fifth?

-- **Jayne Shaydet, Woodstock, Ga.**

A: Tide's "Miracle Stain," followed by Dodge Ram's "Farmers," featuring Paul Harvey's commentary about farmers, Doritos' "Fashionista Dad" and Jeep's "Families Waiting." □

US CEO ridicules French work ethic

THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A straight-talking U.S. businessman and a European socialist government were never likely to become the firmest of friends, but a letter from Maurice Taylor, CEO of tire-maker Titan International, blasting the French work-ethic has ruffled France's feathers.

Taylor, who is nicknamed

The Industrial Renewal Ministry had approached Titan to start discussions on buying up part of the Goodyear factory.

Taylor's response in the letter was abrupt, to say the least. "How stupid do you think we are?"

"Titan is the one with the money and the talent to produce tires. What does the crazy union have? It has the French govern-

Taylor that France remains the number 1. European destination from American investors," said French government spokesperson Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, also stepping in.

"And it's likely there are very good reasons for that." Figures from the Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development show that France is riding high in the top ten of



Titan Tire Corporation President Maury Taylor speaks during a news conference. Maury has written a stinging letter to the French government, blasting the French work ethic saying workers waste time talking.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

"The Grizz", wrote the no-holds-barred letter to French Industrial Renewal Minister Arnaud Montebourg to explain why his company wouldn't buy part of an ailing Goodyear factory in Amiens. The ministry confirmed the letter as authentic however attempts to obtain comment from Titan have been unsuccessful.

"I have visited the factory a couple of times," the letter dated Feb. 8 reads, according to a copy published Wednesday in Les Echos newspaper.

"The French workforce gets paid high wages but only work for three hours. They get one hour for breaks and lunch, talk for three and work for three.

I told this to the French union workers to their faces.

They told me that's the French way!"

ment."

The letter, which refers to French employees as "so-called workers" has prompted a media backlash against Taylor, and even caused the French government to defend itself.

In a written reply Wednesday, a copy of which was sent to The Associated Press, Montebourg tells Taylor "your words, as extremist as they are insulting, show a perfect ignorance of our country."

"Can I remind you that Titan, the company you head is 20 times smaller than Michelin, the French technology leader with a global reach, and 35 times more profitable? That shows the extent that Titan could have learnt and gained enormously from a French base," Montebourg goes on.

"I would like to remind Mr.

the most productive European countries. However, analysts and politicians across Europe are becoming increasingly concerned the France, Europe's second-largest economy after Germany, is rapidly losing its competitiveness. The exchange of letters has been played out on a broader landscape of rising unemployment and fears that French industry will fall further behind as its economy slumps.

Titan International plays on the hard reputation of its CEO, who also made an attempt to run for U.S. President in 1996 for the Republicans.

The company's website features a biography explaining that the nickname comes from his "tough negotiating style" in Washington as well as a logo and sound of a roaring grizzly bear wearing shades. □

Former Illinois Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. pleads guilty

**F. J. FROMMER
PETE YOST
Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The son of a prominent U.S. civil rights leader, holding back tears, entered a guilty plea Wednesday in federal court to criminal charges that he engaged in a scheme to spend \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items. He faces 46 to 57 months in prison, and a fine of \$10,000 to \$100,000, under a plea deal with prosecutors.

A few hours later, Jesse Jackson Jr.'s wife, Sandra Jackson, pleaded guilty to filing false joint federal income tax returns that knowingly understated the income the couple received. She faces one to two years in prison and a fine of \$3,000 to \$40,000.

Until the couple's troubles began, Jackson, a former congressman and son of civil rights leader Rev. Jesse

Jackson, seemed to have a bright political future with a possible shot at higher office. She was a member of the Chicago city council until her resignation last month.

In a 17-page prosecution document, Jackson's wife admitted that from mid-

2006 through mid-October of last year, she failed to report \$600,000 in income that she and her husband earned from 2005 to 2011. Before entering the plea to a conspiracy charge, Jesse Jackson told U.S. District Judge Robert L. Wilkins, "I've never been more

clear in my life" in his decision to plead guilty.

Later, when Wilkins asked if Jackson committed the acts outlined in court papers, the former congressman replied, "I did these things." He added later, "Sir, for years I lived in my campaign," and used money from the campaign for personal use.

Jackson told the judge he was waiving his right to trial. "In perfect candor, your honor, I have no interest in wasting the taxpayers' time or money," he said.

U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen called the guilty plea "nothing short of tragic."

"Jesse Jackson Jr. entered public life with unlimited potential, but squandered his bright future by engaging in a self-destructive course of conduct that was staggering in both degree and scope," Machen said. "For seven years, Mr. Jackson betrayed the very peo-

ple he inspired by stealing their campaign donations to finance his extravagant lifestyle."

Jackson had been a Democratic congressman from Illinois from 1995 until he resigned last November. He is scheduled to be sentenced June 28, and his wife on July 1. Wilkins, who presided over both guilty pleas, is not bound by the terms of the plea agreements.

Both Jacksons are free until sentencing.

Since last June, Jesse Jackson has been hospitalized twice at the Mayo Clinic for treatment of bipolar disorder and other issues, and he stayed out of the public eye for months, even during the November elections.

His attorney said after the court appearance that Jackson's health is "not an excuse" for his actions, "just a fact." □



Former Illinois Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. is surrounded as he walks to his car outside the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, after he entered a guilty plea to criminal charges that he engaged in a scheme to spend \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

BONUS



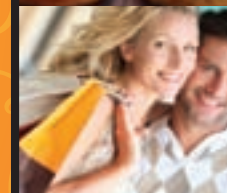
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New York Times Co. plans to sell Boston Globe

AMY CHOZICK

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The New York Times Co.

plans to sell The Boston Globe and other New England properties, allowing the media company to focus energy and resources on its flagship newspaper. The Times Co. announced Wednesday that it had retained Evercore Partners to manage the sale of the New England Media Group, anchored by The Globe, Boston.com, The Worcester Telegram & Gazette and GlobeDirect, a direct mail marketing company. Mark Thompson, president and chief executive of the Times Co., called The Globe and the Worcester Telegram & Gazette "outstanding newspapers," but in a statement he said selling the newspapers "demonstrates our commitment to concentrate our strategic focus and investment on The New York Times brand



The Boston Globe newspaper building in Dorchester, Mass. The New York Times Company announced on Feb. 20, 2013, that it plans to sell the New England Media Group, which includes The Boston Globe and its related properties.

(John Blanding/Boston Globe)

and its journalism."

The Times Co. has in recent years sold assets unrelated to The Times. In May, the company received \$63 million for its remaining stake in the Fenway Sports

Group, the company that owns the Boston Red Sox. Last year, the company sold its 16 regional newspapers, including The Gainesville Sun and The Sarasota Herald Tribune, to Halifax

Media Holdings for \$143 million.

The Times paid \$1.1 billion for The Globe in 1993, and for years the Boston daily brought prestige and profits to the company. But

recently the newspaper has suffered in an industry-wide decline in circulation and advertising revenue. The paper's circulation has diminished by nearly half in the past decade to a weekday readership of 230,351, from 438,621 in 2002. Digital subscriptions to The Boston Globe and BostonGlobe.com grew by 8 percent, to about 28,000 subscribers in the company's fourth quarter. The Times Co. is expected to seek a purchaser in an auction but in a news release said "there can be no assurance that any transaction will take place." Suitors have approached the Times Co. about purchasing The Globe in the past. In 2009, the company turned down a local investment group's bid of around \$35 million and the assumption of pension obligations for The Globe and The Worcester Telegram & Gazette. □

Ringleader in Ohio Amish attacks appeals verdict

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The ringleader of 16 Amish found guilty in beard- and hair-cutting hate-crime attacks on fellow members of their faith in Ohio asked an appeals court Wednesday to overturn his conviction. The attorney for Sam Mullet Sr., 67, filed the notice of appeal with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The appeal cited issues including the judge's refusal to delay last year's trial in Cleveland or to release Mullet on bond. The appeal also cited testimony about sex involving Mullet and women in his community. Thirteen defendants have appealed their convictions.

The judge said defendants have until Friday to appeal. They were convicted in five attacks in Ohio Amish communities in 2011 in apparent retaliation against Amish who had defied or denounced Mullet's authoritarian style in the insular community, which shuns many facets of modern life and is deeply religious. The jury sided with prosecution arguments that the defendants should be found guilty of a hate crime because religious differences brought about the attacks. Amish believe the Bible instructs women to let their hair grow long and men to grow beards once they marry. Cutting it would be shameful and offensive.

Mullet was sentenced Feb. 8 to 15 years in prison, while

family members convicted of carrying out his orders

got sentences ranging from one to seven years. □



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U.S. Economy: Fed shows concerns about bond purchases

M. CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several Federal Reserve policymakers suggested last month that the Fed might have to scale back its efforts to keep borrowing costs low for the foreseeable future.

Minutes, or written records, of the Fed's Jan. 29-30 policy meeting released Wednesday showed that some officials worried about the Fed's plan to keep buying \$85 billion in bonds each month until the job market has improved substantially. They expressed concern that the continued purchases could eventually escalate inflation, unsettle financial markets or cause the Fed to absorb losses once it begins selling its investments. According to the minutes, some Fed officials thought an ongoing review of the bond purchases might lead the policy committee to slow or end its purchases "before it judged that a substantial improvement in the outlook for the labor market has occurred."

In the end, the Fed voted 11-1 last month to keep its bond-buying program

open-ended and at the same size. It said in a statement that the purchases would continue until the job market improved substantially. The bond purchases are intended to keep interest rates down to encourage borrowing and spending.

Still, the January minutes

ue. The debate within the Fed has fed speculation that the bond purchases might be scaled back or ended altogether this year. Stock prices fell after the release of the minutes. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down more than 100 points. Before the release of the minutes,

could rise, and potentially strengthen the dollar, if the Fed curtailed its bond buying program.

The minutes showed that "several participants" thought the Fed should be ready to vary the pace of its purchases as it adjusts its view of the economy or the benefits and costs of the purchases. The policymakers asked Fed staffers to provide a deeper analysis at upcoming meetings of the issues raised in the discussion.

Private economists seemed divided Wednesday over how to interpret the debate described in the Fed's minutes.

Some pointed to the Fed's lopsided 11-1 vote last month for the current level of bond purchases as a sign that Chairman Ben Bernanke commands a large majority for keeping the monthly purchases at \$85 billion until the job market strengthens significantly.

Other analysts said the extensive discussion of the purchases at last month's policy meeting signaled rising concern about the risks of continuing the bond-buying program. □



Ben Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, testifies in Washington.
(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

suggested that the discussion over the risks from the bond buying was more extensive than at the Fed's December meeting. Minutes of the December meeting had also pointed to divisions among Fed officials over how long the purchases should contin-

the Dow had been down only about 25 points. The prospect of higher interest rates could hurt corporate profits and stock prices over time.

The value of the dollar rose against other major currencies. Traders anticipated that U.S. interest rates

Ban on large, sugary drinks looms in NYC

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's first-in-the-U.S. ban on large, sugary drinks will take effect in three weeks — unless a judge agrees with a challenge from beverage makers and sellers. A Manhattan state Supreme Court justice on Wednesday didn't immediately rule or say when he would. The large drink ban that takes effect March 12 is the latest effort by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to fight obesity and nudge residents into healthier ways. Some critics say that's too much meddling in their personal habits. The national beverage industry and restaurant and theater associations say businesses could end up wasting money complying with the regulation if a court ultimately throws it out. "What's the rush?" asked Steven Molo, a lawyer for groups representing Korean-American deli owners and Hispanic-owned eateries. The city says there's no time to waste in trimming in health problems and hospital bills. The restriction "will have significant public health effects, and the sooner that happens, the better," city lawyer Mark W. Muschenheim told the judge. The city Board of Health agreed in September to ban restaurants, delis, movie theaters and many other eateries from selling high-sugar drinks in cups or containers bigger than 16 ounces (450 grams). City officials cite studies that suggest sugary drinks are a driving factor in the nation's growing obesity problem and say the restriction will help with portion control. □

BP settlement remains elusive as trial nears

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press. NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department and the five Gulf coast states affected by a massive oil spill nearly three years ago have indicated they would like to settle their environmental and economic claims with BP PLC ahead of a trial scheduled to start next week. The problem is that they haven't been able to agree on the possible terms of such an agree-

ment. Months of negotiations have failed to resolve lingering differences — not just with the London-based oil giant, but among themselves. The Justice Department convened a meeting with Gulf Coast state officials in Washington late last week in an effort to hammer out an offer to resolve the outstanding civil claims, but an agreement wasn't reached, said a person familiar with the negotiations. The per-

son spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said reaching a settlement that satisfies all states' competing interests has been difficult. "We just want to make sure we get our fair share," he said. "We had more economic damage than probably any state because of the loss of all the tourism we had in 2010. So it's very important that the people

of Alabama are compensated for the losses related to the oil spill." An 11th-hour settlement still could be reached before the trial starts Monday — or even after it has begun — but it is not surprising that a deal has proved elusive thus far in such a complex case, said David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor and former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section. □



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Married women contributing more to U.S. family earnings

Katie Johnston
© The New York Times

Candace Keshwar of Jamaica Plain was a stay-at-home-mother until her husband's construction business went under in 2009. She has supported her family ever since.

At one point, her husband got a job stocking shelves at Home Depot, but it did not last because "we couldn't afford for both of us to be working and pay for child care," said Keshwar, 44, who makes \$40,000 a year at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

Keshwar, whose husband recently started working nights as a housekeeping manager, is among the many women who were thrust into the role of family breadwinner during the last recession, which hit men disproportionately hard as male-dominated industries such as construction and manufacturing sustained massive job losses.

While women's portion of household earnings has risen steadily over the past two decades, their share of family income had the biggest one-year increase in nearly a quarter century between 2008 and 2009 -- the worst of the recession -- according to a report by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire.

Working wives now account for 47 percent of household earnings, up from 38 percent in 1988, while husband's contributions have dropped to 53

percent from 62 percent, said the study's author, Kristin Smith, a family demographer who used census data to compare earnings of employed married women with those of all married men, including those who were out of work.

Women's contributions to family incomes have historically risen during recessions, as men lose jobs and women become primary breadwinners, Smith said. Those earnings tend to remain higher even after husbands return to work, as families try to make up for diminished bank accounts and other financial losses. Caitlin LoCascio-King, a lawyer in Auburn, Maine, quit her job in 2011 after she had a baby and started a part-time solo practice. But she ramped up her hours last year when her family's health care costs increased and her husband's pay raises were not keeping up with the cost of living.

"My plan was just to bring in a little money to help my family," said LoCascio-King, 28, who has a 2-year-old and a 9-month-old and trades off child care duties with her husband, who works nights. "It has grown much bigger than that in large part because of the economy."

LoCascio-King estimates she will be the main breadwinner this year, and that is just fine with her husband, a police officer in Portland: "My husband is thrilled with my new nickname, Sugar Mama." □

Community asking 'where is everybody?'

CARA BUCKLEY
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NEW YORK — There weren't enough people in Red Hook, residents said to one another in worried tones. The Brooklyn neighborhood felt lonely. Dwellers in the garden apartments along Pioneer Street, which took on about 8 feet of water during Hurricane Sandy, were long gone. Dog walkers' clients had moved, taking their canine charges with them. At least one restaurant was having trouble finding enough workers

had been cut in half. "It'll be many years before it gets back to where it was," Lisenbee owns two row houses on the elegantly appointed Pioneer Street, and the garden levels of both were washed to ruin by the storm. There had been a tenant living in one of the apartments, but Lisenbee, nervous about possible flooding, persuaded him to leave three months before Hurricane Sandy hit. He said he would not lease the apartment as a separate dwelling again.

pioneers and craftspeople who were artisanal before the word went mainstream, and who rewarded people who ventured to the neighborhood with great food, drink and song — had lost some of its desirability because of the storm. Eva Zurek, a real estate broker in the area, said that prospective buyers asked whether the house she was showing had been flooded, or wonder aloud if it would need upgrading, or whether it would be hit with high flood taxes. "Lots of speculation!" she wrote in an email.

Carol West, 45, a dog walker who spent 10 years building up her business, said her client base has been cut in half. She is considering going back to school to seek out an alternate career. "I can't support my family on this," she said, "I don't have it in me anymore."

Lisenbee's

wife, Sharon Paige-Lisenbee, predicts that the neighborhood will indeed rebound. The storm was a setback, she said, but it also rekindled the area's survivalist spirit.

"There's a spunkiness about people who live here," she said. "I almost think it's going to be bigger and better than before." □



Carol West, a dog walker who says her client base has been cut in half after Hurricane Sandy, in New York, Feb. 18, 2013. While some in Red Hook, the neighborhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York, remain optimistic, others worry that people might not return after Sandy forced them out.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

to reopen. Demand from would-be homebuyers had ebbed. "It's like, deserted. It has kind of a sad feeling," said Tom Lisenbee, 74, a writer and retired trumpeter with the New York City Opera, who has lived in the harborside community for nearly 30 years. He estimated that the number of people living on his block

"After Irene, I said, you're out of your skull if you want to live there," said Lisenbee, referring to the 2011 storm that largely bypassed New York City, but still brought floods. "I could not in conscience put anyone there."

A cloud of fear hangs over the neighborhood, a fear that Red Hook — a place of

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Egypt's military signals impatience

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's powerful military is showing signs of growing impatience with the country's Islamist leaders, indirectly criticizing their policies and issuing thinly veiled threats that it might seize power again.

The tension is raising the specter of another military intervention much like the

against a grim backdrop of spreading unrest, rising crime and a worsening economy.

"In essence, the military will not allow national stability or its own institutional privileges to come under threat from a breakdown in Egypt's social fabric or a broad-based civil strife," said Michael W. Hanna, an Egypt expert from the New York-based Century Foun-

ment.

El-Sissi may have angered Morsi last month when he signaled the military's readiness to step in, warning that the state would collapse if no solution was found to the political crisis. Pointedly, he also spoke of how the military faces a dilemma in marrying the task of protecting state installations in restive locations with its resolve not to harm



Egyptian army soldiers stand guard in Cairo, Egypt. Egypt's powerful military is showing signs of growing impatience with the country's Islamist leaders, criticizing their policies and issuing thinly-veiled threats that it might seize power again.

(AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

one in 2011, when generals replaced longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak after they sided with anti-regime protesters in their 18-day popular uprising.

The strains come at a time when many Egyptians are despairing of an imminent end to the crippling political impasse between President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group on one side, and the mostly secular and liberal opposition on the other.

The tug of war between the two camps is being waged

dation.

"This is not an ideological army or one that seeks to destabilize civilian governance. ... But it is also not an army that will sit by while the country reaches the tipping point on the path to civil strife."

The latest friction began when a rumor circulated that Morsi planned to replace Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, his defense minister and the army chief, because of his resistance to bringing the military under the sway of the Brotherhood-dominated govern-

peaceful protesters.

In another provocative comment earlier this month, el-Sissi was quoted as saying he would never allow the armed forces to be dominated by the Brotherhood, or any other group, stressing the military's national identity.

A Brotherhood spokesman, Yasser Mehrez, dismissed claims that the group sought to bring the military under its sway. "This is old talk that has been repeated over and over again," he said. □

Russia, Arab League offer to broker negotiations for Syria

ALBERT AJI

RYAN LUCAS

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)

— Russia and the Arab League proposed Wednesday to broker talks between the Syrian opposition and President Bashar Assad's regime to try to resolve the country's civil war, while a government airstrike on a rebellious Damascus suburb killed at least 20 people.

The 23-month-old conflict in Syria, which has killed more than 70,000 people and laid waste to the country's cities, has repeatedly defied international efforts to bring the parties together to end the bloodshed. Wednesday's offer from Moscow, one of Assad's closest allies, suggested the regime could be warming to the idea of a settlement as it struggles to hold territory and claw back ground it has lost.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the Kremlin and the Arab League are attempting to establish direct contact between the Syrian regime and the opposition.

Sitting down at the negotiating table is the only way to end the conflict without irreparably damaging Syria, he said.

"Neither side can allow itself to rely on a military solution to the conflict, because it's a road to nowhere, a road to mutual destruction of the people," Lavrov said in Moscow, where he hosted league officials and several Arab foreign ministers.

Both Lavrov and Arab

League General Secretary Nabil Elaraby said their main priority was creating a transitional government in Syria to navigate a way out of the conflict.

No conditions for the Syrian negotiations have been set. Lavrov said both sides' readiness to begin talks was "the most important thing."

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem will lead a delegation to Moscow on Monday, and Russia is expecting a visit in March from the opposition Syrian National Coalition leader, Mouaz al-Khatib.

Al-Khatib has said he is open to talks with the regime that could pave the way for Assad's departure, but that the Syrian leader must first release tens of thousands of detainees. The government has refused.

Russia's proposal Wednesday got a cool reception from the opposition.

"We cannot agree to that," said Abdelbaset Sieda, a senior member of the Syrian National Coalition. "Assad and his group must go first. After that we can discuss with others in the regime who didn't share in the killing of our people."

Still, Wednesday's proposal was notable because it emanated from Russia — Assad's chief advocate on the international stage. It is unlikely that Moscow would publicly propose to host talks without having first secured Damascus' word that it would indeed sit down with the opposition. □



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Bolivia leader unable to visit Chavez at hospital

EDITH M. LEDERER
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Bolivian President Evo Morales said Wednesday that he was unable to meet with his friend and ally Hugo Chavez when he came to the military hospital in Caracas where the Venezuelan president is undergoing unspecified cancer treatment.

Morales had arrived at the hospital on Tuesday night along with Vice President Nicolas Maduro in a convoy of vehicles escorted by troops on motorcycles, and the Bolivian leader left later on without speaking to journalists who were waiting outside the hospital.

"I tried to visit yesterday. I talked with his doctors... but he's still in treatment," Morales said at a news conference at the United Nations. "I hope that soon my brother Chavez is leading the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

Morales said that Chavez has been going through "the most difficult moments in his life" and is still facing serious health problems. But he also said that he met

with Chavez's family at the hospital, and "my understanding is that they are very encouraged."

"Now that he's returned to Caracas it's a great relief," Morales said.

Chavez's return to Venezuela from Cuba was announced by the government on Monday after a 10-week stay on the island during which he underwent a fourth cancer-related surgery and treatment for complications including a severe respiratory infection. The government hasn't released any images of the president since his return, and Chavez's long absence from public view has been stirring renewed speculation about a possible new presidential election if his illness eventually forces him to relinquish power. Chavez hasn't spoken publicly since before his Dec. 11 surgery.

In Venezuela on Wednesday, Maduro spoke on television about the jubilation among Chavez's supporters who celebrated his arrival in the streets.

"Venezuela is filled with love and happiness because we have command-

er Hugo Chavez Frias here in our homeland," Maduro said. He recalled that Chavez had personally told his government officials in Havana that it was time for him to return home to continue his "complementary

His supporters have been showing their support writing celebratory slogans on the windows of buses and cars in Caracas, such as "Chavez is alive" and "He's back." The Venezuelan government also sought to



Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro, left, smiles during a meeting with Bolivia's President Evo Morales in Caracas, Venezuela. Morales said Wednesday that he was unable to meet with Chavez at the military hospital in Caracas.

(AP Photo/MPO)

treatments" in Venezuela. It remains unclear what treatments Chavez is currently receiving, though medical experts say it could be more chemotherapy or other sorts of drug treatments, depending on the type of pelvic cancer he is fighting.

buttress the official stance that Chavez remains in charge by issuing a statement strongly criticizing the U.S. State Department for a spokeswoman's remarks about a possible transition in the country.

The Venezuelan government said the comments

by State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland "constitute a new and rude interference by the government in Washington in the internal affairs of Venezuela."

Nuland referred to the possibility of a new presidential election in Venezuela when asked on Tuesday about Chavez's return from Cuba.

"It is obviously a matter for Venezuelans to decide how the transition is going to take place," Nuland told reporters in Washington. "Should President Chavez become permanently unavailable to serve, our understanding is that the Venezuelan Constitution requires that there be an election to seek a new president." She said the U.S. government "would hope that that election would be free and fair and balanced." Chavez's government said Nuland's statements "have generated deep indignation among the Venezuelan people." It said that "the only transition being proposed is the transition toward Bolivarian socialism" being pursued by Chavez's government. □

Report: Mexico disappearances constitute 'crisis'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Human Rights Watch report released Wednesday calls Mexico's anti-drug offensive "disastrous" and cites 249 cases of disappearances, most of which show evidence of having been carried out by the military or law enforcement.

The report says the enforced disappearances follow a pattern in which security forces detain people without warrants at checkpoints, homes or workplaces, or in public. When

victims' families ask about their relatives, security forces deny the detentions or instruct them to look for their loved ones at police stations or army bases.

Human Rights Watch criticizes former President Felipe Calderon for ignoring the problem, calling it "the most severe crisis of enforced disappearances in Latin America in decades." While the report acknowledges that current President Enrique Pena Nieto inherited the problem, it says

he should act urgently "in cases where people have been taken against their will and their fate is still unknown." Mexico's Interior Department, which oversees domestic security, declined to make an immediate comment about the report. A civic organization released a data base late last year that it said contained official information on more than 20,000 people who had gone missing in Mexico over the previous six years. □



A mother hold a photograph of her disappeared child during a Mass at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

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Police offer confusing testimony in Pistorius case

JON GAMBRELL
GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)

— The detective leading the police investigation into Oscar Pistorius' fatal shooting of his girlfriend offered confusing testimony Wednesday, at one point agreeing with the athlete's defense that officers had no evidence challenging the runner's claim he accidentally killed her.

Testimony by Detective Warrant Officer Hilton Botha of the South African Police Service left prosecutors rubbing their temples,

only able to look down at their notes as he misjudged distances and acknowledged a forensics team left in the toilet bowl one of the bullet slugs fired at Reeva Steenkamp. However, Botha still poked holes in Pistorius' own account that he feared for his life and opened fire on Valentine's Day after mistaking Steenkamp for an intruder.

The second day of the bail hearing in a case that has riveted South Africa and much of the world appeared at first to go against the double-amputee runner, with prosecutors saying a witness can testify to

hearing "non-stop talking, like shouting" between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. before the predawn shooting on Feb. 14.

However, Botha later said under cross examination that the person who overheard the argument was in

and the detective acknowledged the distance was much closer. But confusion reigned for much of his testimony, when at one point Botha said officers found syringes and steroids in Pistorius' bedroom. Nel quickly cut the officer off

tective and 24 years with the police — that it was not a banned substance and that police were trying to give the discovery a "negative connotation."

"It is an herbal remedy," Roux said. "It is not a steroid and it is not a banned substance."

The name of the drug, offered later in court by Roux, could not be immediately found in reference materials by The Associated Press. A spokesman for prosecutors later said it's too early to know what the substance is, as they don't yet have results of forensic testing on the material.

Pistorius, 26, said in an affidavit read in court Tuesday that he and his 29-year-old girlfriend had gone to bed and that when he awoke during the night he detected what he thought was an intruder in the bathroom.

He testified that he grabbed his 9 mm pistol and fired into the door of a toilet enclosed in the bathroom, only to discover later to his horror that Steenkamp was there, mortally wounded. □



Investigating officer Hilton Botha, sits inside the court witness box during the Oscar Pistorius bail hearing at the magistrate court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

a house 600 meters (yards) away in Pistorius' gated community in the suburbs of South Africa's capital, Pretoria.

Later, prosecutor Gerrie Nel questioned Botha again

and said the drugs were actually testosterone.

Pistorius' lead defense lawyer, Barry Roux, asserted when questioning the detective — who has 16 years' experience as a de-

Cyprus suspect says he's in Hezbollah

M. HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A

man being tried on allegations he planned attacks on Israeli tourists in Cyprus has admitted being a member of the militant group Hezbollah and staking out locations that such visitors frequent, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Hossam Taleb Yaacoub's admissions follow accusations that the Lebanon-

based Hezbollah was behind a bombing in Bulgaria that killed five Israeli tourists. Authorities here have been reluctant to link the Cyprus case to the attack in Bulgaria, but both have fed concerns about militant activity in Europe.

Lawyer Antonis Georgiades noted that Yaacoub, who is Swedish and Lebanese, told a Cyprus court that he came to this country on business with no plan

to harm anyone. But Yaacoub, 24, also admitted that an unidentified man in Lebanon, where Hezbollah is based, gave him the "mission" of recording flight arrivals and bus routes of Israeli tourists and checking out a hospital parking lot.

Cyprus police arrested Yaacoub last July, several days before the bombing that killed the five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian bus driver. □

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Greece's weakened workforce starts to crack

DEREK GATOPOULOS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Looking out across a room full of reporters gathered to welcome French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday, Greece's President Karolos Papoulias gave a stark warning about the state of the country after three harsh years of government spending cuts, joblessness and tax hikes.

"We are faced with a societal explosion if any more pressure is put on society," he said.

In spite of Greece receiving much-needed bailout loans, life seems to be getting worse for ordinary people.

Not only are Greece's 1.35 million unemployed unable to make ends meet, but a growing number of those in work are struggling as more and more companies can no longer make regular salary payments. As well finding it harder to feed, heat and clothe themselves and their families, Greek workers also have to pay increasingly hefty taxes the government is relying on to turn the economy around.

Greece's trade union organization, the GSEE, organized a general strike Wednesday to protest a new series of austerity measures. It warns that the labor force — which includes a

large public sector — has been too badly weakened to help the battered country recover.

Union and independent analysts are worried Greece will face further years of economic struggle and protest as too many demands are placed on a shrinking workforce.



Unemployed worker Maria Kanga chants slogans using a loudspeaker during a protest in central Athens. Researchers from Greece's largest labor union, the GSEE, say the country's three-year crisis has left nearly two-thirds of private sector employees without receiving their regular salaries.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

Since it was priced out of the international debt markets in 2010, Greece has relied on emergency loans from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

To continue receiving these loans, the Greek coalition government has had to agree to harsh spending

cuts and tax hikes to try and lower public debt. These measures, however, have also put the brakes on Greece's economy and hit ordinary Greeks hard.

"The government is thus caught between a rock and a hard place, trying to balance the demands of its

million people, is stuck in a five-year recession. Greece now has the highest unemployment rate in the 17-strong group of European Union countries that use the euro, with 27 percent out of work — 60 percent of those aged under 24. The government-funded research institute KEPE has forecast that unemployment will hit 30 percent this year.

The crisis has left 450,000 households with no one working, while a one-year limit on unemployment benefits — and strict rules to qualify for them — mean just 225,000 jobless Greeks are currently receiving monthly state assistance. According to government data analyzed by the GSEE, 3.6 million people out of a

population of 11 million are working, with 1.6 million employed by private-sector companies — that's down from around 2.5 million before the crisis broke in 2010. Early signs from 2013, suggest high taxes may be backfiring: January revenues sank €572 million (\$765 million) from last year's figure to €4.42 billion (\$5.91 billion), despite a raft of additional demands on tax payers.

When contacted by the Associated Press, officials the government's powerful new Department of Public Revenue refused to confirm widespread local media reports that 2.5 million tax payers will be sent notices starting next month demanding overdue payments. □

Venezuela condemns Washington 'meddling'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —

Venezuela's government is criticizing the U.S. State Department for comments about a possible transition in the country, calling a spokeswoman's remarks an attempt by Washington to meddle in Venezuela's affairs.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nu-

land referred to the possibility of a new presidential election in Venezuela when asked on Tuesday about ailing President Hugo Chavez's return from Cuba.

Nuland noted that if Chavez should "become permanently unavailable to serve, our understanding is that the Venezuelan

Constitution requires that there be an election to seek a new president."

Chavez's government said in a statement on Wednesday that her comments "constitute a new and rude interference by the government in Washington in the internal affairs of Venezuela." □

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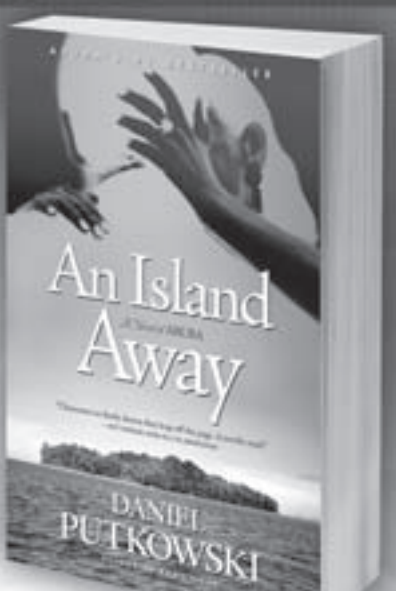
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Quinoa boom stresses Bolivia highlands

PAOLA FLORES
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — The growing global demand for quinoa by health food enthusiasts isn't just raising prices for the Andean "super grain" and living standards among Bolivian farmers. Quinoa fever is running up against physical limits. The scramble to grow more is prompting Bolivian farmers to abandon traditional land management practices, endangering the fragile ecosystem of the arid highlands, agronomists say. Quinoa currently fetches as much as \$3,200 a ton, up nearly threefold from five years ago — a surge fed by "foodies" making quinoa a hot health-food product based on its high content of protein and amino acids. It's also gluten free.

Though used like a grain, quinoa is actually an edible seed.

The United Nations has designated 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa, and Bolivian President Evo Morales planned to be at a special session of the world body in New York on Wednesday along with Peru's first lady, Nadine Heredia, to celebrate. Their countries are the world's two biggest producers.

Quinoa has been cultivated in the Andean highlands since at least 3000 B.C., growing natively from Chile north to Colombia. It grows best at high altitudes in climates with cool days and even cooler nights.

In December, Morales mounted a tractor and plowed furrows into the soil of his highlands hometown,

Orinoca, to promote quinoa as sowing season got under way. Townspeople sacrificed a llama to ask Pachamama, or Mother Earth, for a good harvest. But last week, Morales was out chastising farmers for having planted quinoa in pastures where llamas traditionally graze. Without the llamas' manure, little would grow in the arid highlands more than two miles (three



Farmer Geronimo Blanco shows his quinoa plants in Patamanta, Bolivia. A burgeoning global demand for quinoa is spurring new cultivation all across Bolivia's western highlands as prices for the Andean "super grain" soar.

(AP Photo/Juan Karita)

kilometers) high where the most prized variety of quinoa originates.

"Quinoa goes hand in hand with the natural fertilizer that llamas produce and there must be a nutritional crossing between the two," said Rosmary Jaldin, an expert in the crop.

Bolivia's deputy minister of rural development, Victor Hugo Vasquez, said 30 percent of his country's 70,000 quinoa producers are now children of peasants who left the farm but have been drawn back by high qui-

noa prices.

He and the president of Bolivia's National Association of Quinoa Producers, Juan Crispin, say many of the growers don't follow traditional farming methods and are depleting soils because they don't rotate crops.

"We're not going to work with them," said Vasquez. "We are not going to help them."

Morales' government declared quinoa a strategic priority two years ago and has since disbursed \$10 million in credits for increasing yields to cash in on the boom.

The country's quinoa crop expanded from 240 square miles (63,000 hectares) in 2009 to 400 square miles (104,000 hectares) last year, when it produced a total of 58,000 metric tons, according to the Rural Development Ministry.

That is more than 40 times the production in 2000.

The United States imports 52 percent of Bolivian quinoa while 24 percent goes to Europe, where France and the Netherlands are big buyers.

Peru, meantime, raised its production to 43,640 metric tons last year from 29,640 tons in 2009 and exported \$30 million worth, up 20 percent from the previous year.

Their gains have caught the attention of potential competitors. Farmers are beginning to plant quinoa in other countries, including Canada, Australia, China, India and Paraguay. A few thousand acres are harvested in a highland valley of the U.S. state of Colorado and also in Minnesota.

Bolivian farmers are complaining to their government that they need harvesting machinery since most of their quinoa is harvested by hand.

Morales' administration has invited South Korean engineers to design the desired machines.

Duane Johnson, a former Colorado state agronomist who helped introduce quinoa to the United States three decades ago, said quinoa can be commercially planted and harvested just like grain.

"It's just the size of millet," said Johnson, who now lives in Bigfork, Montana. "I think the problem you get into in South America is getting enough land to justify a combine." When he was growing quinoa in the late 1980s, the United States accounted for 37 percent of the world's quinoa crop, Johnson said. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

NNP party wins parliamentary vote in Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (AP) — A former prime minister of Grenada is returning to power on the eastern Caribbean island after his party won all 15 constituencies in parliamentary elections. Keith Mitchell's New National Party defeated the National Democratic Congress of outgoing leader Tillman Thomas in Tuesday's vote. Thomas had served as prime minister since 2008. Elections supervisor Judy Benoit says preliminary results show the NNP received more than 31,000 votes and the NDC more than 20,000.

St. Lucia buying Petrocaribe oil from Venezuela

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — The Caribbean island of St. Lucia will buy oil through a Venezuelan program that offers fuel at preferential terms. Prime Minister Kenny Anthony says the Petrocaribe program will allow his administration to manage and stabilize petroleum prices. He said in a statement Tuesday that the island would start buying oil by end of March. St. Lucia is one of Petrocaribe's 18 member nations, but it previously obtained its fuel from energy-rich Trinidad. Opposition Leader Stephenson King warned Anthony against buying oil from Venezuela given the uncertainty over the program's future with the illness of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. □



ATA says thanks:

Loyal Visitors honored at Amsterdam Manor Resort!



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill

at the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as tokens of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19

and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Steven and Meryl Kovins from Staten Island, NY as Distinguished Visitors, and Angelo and Louise Racine and Fedina Ferrante,

also from NY as Ambassadors of Goodwill. All of them have something in common: they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people of Aruba, the beaches, the beautiful weather, the restaurants and the beautiful nature. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing ATA, together with Ivan Dijkhoff, representing the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort. □



At the Marriott Surf Club: Darryl and Joan Inman honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Darryl and Joan Inman from Brooklyn, NY. Darryl and Joan are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the great friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants and the relaxation and great accommodations that the island has to offer.

The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel representing ATA, together with Rosanny Santana representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

Don't Miss Out: Foundation Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi's Reading Competition

- Deadline for all primary schools to submit kick-off assignment is February 22nd.

ORANJESTAD - This week, Foundation Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi and Marriott Vacation Club Aruba are starting off a new reading competition for students (grade 5, 6 and 7) of all primary schools in Aruba. The competition, called Ban Orlando Lesando (Let's go to Orlando reading) is comprised of a kick-off first assignment and a registration deadline of February 22nd. The first assignment



and final school registration will be followed by two more rounds each with an assignment to read a different book and ending with fun quizzes on March 22nd and May 3rd. The winner of the final round receives a week's stay and roundtrip for two to Orlando, Florida, sponsored by Marriott Vacation Club Aruba.

The competition is open to all primary schools in Aruba and those schools that have not signed up yet can still do so, by 4 pm on Friday February 22nd, by sending an e-mail to bonnochidrumidushi@gmail.com. Congratulations to the sixteen primary schools that have already confirmed their participation. They are Pius X School, Colegio Sagrado Curason, Colegio Felipe B. Tromp, O.L.V. Fatima Colege, Caiquetio, Emmaschool, Scol Preparatorio Kudawechea, Colegio Laura Wernet Paskel, Colegio San Hose, Colegio Conrado Coronel, Colegio Hilario Angela, St. Fransiscus, Colegio Bon Bini, Maria School, Maria

Regina School and St. Michael.

"We are happy that sixteen schools confirmed with us so far and want to emphasize that there is still time for additional schools to register and submit their first assignment in this island wide competition", said Olga Buckley, president of the Foundation. "It gives us great pride and joy to notice that children enjoy the experience of reading. For other schools that might still be interested, I'd like to emphasize that the deadline to submit student assignments is Friday February 22nd. All schools need to adhere to this deadline in order to participate in the competition and we are looking forward to the next round of this important reading competition." First round requirements:

Schools that have yet to enroll, but have students participating in the first round have to read the book *Catalino Bocachica* by the author Luis Dario Bernal Pinilla. After reading, students have to write their own ending to this book, which forms the kick-off assignment to participate in the competition. The new ending to the book should not exceed a half letter-head size document in font Times Roman or Arial, size 12 pt. Deadline for this assignment is Friday February 22 and all entries can be submitted to bonnochidrumidushi@gmail.com.

On Friday February 22 Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi is organizing a general meeting for all participating schools, students, parents and teachers to give further information about the reading competition and the next two rounds. The meeting will start at 4 pm in the Foundations' office located at Oranjestraat 28, in Oranjestad.

Bon Nochi Drumi Dushi was founded in 2007 to promote, support and stimulate reading books amongst children, both at school and at home. □

This Saturday, February 23: Aureus University to host Health Fair!



ORANJESTAD - Aureus University School of Medicine is pleased to announce that it will be holding its fourth health fair on Saturday, February 23rd, from 8am to 2pm. This event will be taking place at our new campus at Wayaca 31C (formerly Brown's building). We are pleased to invite members from all of the surrounding communities to our campus on that day. The Health Fair is an effort to increase health awareness and disease prevention for everyone in our community by providing health screening tests, educational information, and related activities. It will also serve to increase awareness of local and national health services and resources, and motivate participants to make positive health and behavior changes, as well as to learn self-care practices.

We hope anyone with an interest can attend and participate in the many hands-on educational activities that will be conducted throughout the day. It will be a delightful and educational experience for friends and family. □

Aruba's pups need loving homes!



ORANJESTAD - Animal Right Aruba has at the moment more than a dozen dogs up for adoption. They have adults, 6-months old teenagers, all white and beautiful, and a bevy of cute 5-week olds, mixed breed puppies. They are being fed twice a day by Animal Rights Aruba volunteers but they require a fast adoption, since the Animal Shelter in Wayaca is full and cannot currently accommodate new arrivals. We hope these endearing images will help find homes for these dogs in need of a permanent home. For the purpose of seeing the pups, you can meet the volunteers of ARA at Pacifico Restaurant, across from the road to the Casibari rock formation. While adopting the pups for locals is simple, adopting for overseas families is made easy too! You will get a health certificate from the local vet with the help of the ARA volunteers, and your new dog can go home with you: it's that easy!

For more information on pet adoption, please contact Heleen at 732-0843, or Alma at 733-6468. □

Triple Double Jackpot at the Casino at the Radisson

PALM BEACH - Diana Gavnoudias from New York tested her skill and luck at the Casino at the Radisson and hit the "Triple Double Diamonds" slot machine for a jackpot, earning her \$7,200. The planets were in alignment for Diana, as it was her birthday that day, and the universe celebrated the happy occasion along with the entire casino staff. The Casino at the Radisson makes more than just one jackpot available. The Caribbean Stud Poker Jackpot currently stands on \$46,065, while the Bingo Progressive available to all bingo

players each Saturday & Sunday boasts a \$28,832. Aruba's most popular poker room, at the Casino at the Radisson offers a Bad Beat Jackpot of \$52,564. Additionally, In March during Aruba's Nation Day weekend, the casino will be hosting three consecutive bingo marathons, on the 16th, the 17th, and the 18th, which is the island's Aruba Dag. Chantal Cha Young, Casino Sales & Marketing Coordinator reports that a great number of fun activities are scheduled for that holiday weekend, and the general public is invited. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



NO ORDINARY JOE

*Johnson's OT buzzer-beater
lifts Nets past Bucks*

Brooklyn Nets guards C.J. Watson (1) and Joe Johnson (7) celebrate after Johnson scored with time expiring for a 113-111 overtime victory over the Milwaukee Bucks in their NBA basketball game at Barclays Center, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in New York.

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In this Jan. 11, 2012, file photo, Buffalo Sabres coach Lindy Ruff talks with players during NHL hockey practice in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

Sabres fire longtime coach Ruff

JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— Buffalo Sabres coach Lindy Ruff was fired after 16 seasons on Wednesday because of the team's latest slow start to the NHL season.

Ron Rolston, in his second season as coach of the Sabres' minor league team in Rochester, was appointed as interim coach. His first game in charge is on Thursday at Toronto.

Ruff was relieved of his duties shortly after the team held a 90-minute practice, and a day after the Sabres were booed several times by their home fans during a 2-1 loss to the Winnipeg Jets.

General manager Darcy Regier called the team's lethargic performance during the loss to the Jets as "a tipping point."

The Sabres won their first two games but have won only four of 15 since then.

The news came as a surprise only because Sabres management, including team president Ted Black, had spent much of the past week voicing its support of Ruff. □

Snow halts opening round at Match Play



The pin flag on the 18th green blows in the falling snow during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, in Marana, Ariz. Play was suspended for the rest of the day.

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DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) —

The opening round of the Match Play Championship was suspended on Wednesday when a cold rain that came down sideways quickly gave way to snow from a winter storm. Almost 2 inches (5 centimeters) was dumped on Dove Mountain in just over an hour.

"I've never actually played golf to the point where we've actually stopped for snow, which is kind of crazy," said Jason Day of Australia, who was 6 up through 10 holes over Zach Johnson.

"A little crazy for it to snow in the desert, as well. But that's just how it is. Mother Nature can do whatever she wants."

Ten matches had not even started when players were called off the course as slush was starting to form on the greens. Two hours later, The Ritz-Carlton Club was a blanket of snow as temperatures dipped as low as 33 degrees (zero C). The rest of the day was called off.

"I've seen snow on the course when I was a kid, but nothing like that on any of the tours," said Rory McIlroy, who along with Tiger Woods was among those 10 matches that never had to hit a shot.

Sergio Garcia, in the lead-off match, had just holed a

10-foot par putt to win the 15th hole and go 2 up over Thongchai Jaidee when play was suspended.

The U.S. PGA Tour was meeting with television officials to sort out when to start and how to get back on schedule. The 64-man field is cut in half after each round, and with sunshine in the forecast the rest of the week, it should not be difficult to get caught up.

So much for a tour that follows the sun.

Ian Poulter's only other tournament this year was in Hawaii for the Tournament of Champions, where it took four days just to get started because of high wind, and then the 54-hole event was over 29 hours after it started.

And now this.

"I can't believe it. When have we ever seen that?" he said, taking off his rain gear in front of his locker. "The two events I've attempted to play this year have been three days of 50 mph wind and 2 inches of snow in an hour. It's absolutely, flippin' unbelievable."

Maybe he should consider himself lucky. At least he didn't play Torrey Pines, where fog wiped out an entire round on Saturday and Woods had to wait until Monday afternoon to polish off his 75th career win. There were frost delays in the opening rounds of Phoenix this month.

But snow?

Poulter was cold from the start, rubbing his hands together in the morning chill of high desert — about 2,800 feet (850 meters) above sea level — and he jumped in place to keep warm. He built a 3-up lead over Stephen Gallacher through 12 holes.

In only 3 1/2 hours of golf, there was some impressive play.

Bo Van Pelt, who took three shots to get out of a bunker early in his match against John Senden, won six straight holes — only two of them with birdies — to build a 5-up lead through 12. Matt Kuchar was 3 up over Hiroyuki Fujita through 14 holes, while defending champion Hunter Mahan was 4 up at the turn over Matteo Manassero.

This was the second time in three years that wintry weather interrupted the Match Play Championship. A light snow covered everything but tee boxes and greens the morning of the final in 2011 between Luke Donald and Martin Kaymer. □

It cleared before their match, but then there was a brief delay because of sleet that turned greens white.

The last time the opening round was not finished was in 2005, when it never got started because of rain that put just about every hole at La Costa under water. □

Report: Pods' Everth Cabrera listed in Florida clinic records

The Associated Press Sports broadcaster ESPN reports that San Diego Padres shortstop Everth Cabrera is among five players listed in the records of a Florida clinic at the center of a Major League Baseball investigation into illegal drugs.

The report Tuesday says Cabrera, who led the National

League in stolen bases last season, is listed along with Padres reliever Fautino De Los Santos, Oakland reliever Jordan Norberto, Houston outfielder Fernando Martinez and New York Mets outfield prospect Cesar Puello.

The Biogenesis of America clinic run by Anthony Bosch in Coral Gables is now

closed. The facility allegedly provided performance-enhancing substances to several players, including Alex Rodriguez, Melky Cabrera and Nelson Cruz. The players have said they didn't get illegal drugs from the clinic. The Padres and Mets declined comment on the report. □

Sarah Hammer wins fifth major track cycling title

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Sarah Hammer of the United States grabbed her fifth gold medal, while Francois Pervis of France claimed his maiden title at the track cycling world championships on Wednesday.

Hammer, who twice won consecutive titles in the women's individual pursuit — in 2006-07 and in 2010-11 — edged Amy Cure of Australia in a 3,000-meter race at Minsk Arena.

Australian Annette Edmondson, the London Olympics bronze medallist, won the bronze ahead of Laura Brown of Canada.

Hammer, who won silver in London and was the world record-holder in the discipline, powered through the second half of the race and never looked back.

"Well, this is as usual, I guess, but it's special every time," Hammer said of her victory. "In the qualifying it was quite well, but through the final everything could happen."

Pervis clocked 1 minute, 00.221 seconds,

to be the only rider to finish four laps inside 1:01 in the men's 1-kilometer time trial. Simon Van Velthooven of New Zealand, the bronze medallist last season, timed 1:00.869 for second. Joachim Eilers of Germany clocked 1:01.450 for third.

"I waited for this title for 11 long, long years," Pervis said. "And today I'm the champion and it's the result of my work. I'm so happy."

Germany retained its title by beating China in the women's team sprint, while Australia won the men's team pursuit over Britain.

The German team of Miriam Welte and Kristina Vogel edged Gong Jinjie and Guo Shuang in a repeat of the Olympic final by 0.001 seconds when Vogel motored home with 250 meters left.

"It's an amazing feeling to win it again," Vogel said.

The British team of Victoria Williamson and Rebecca Angharad James won bronze over Australia.

The men's rematch of the London Olympics final didn't feature the same result, as the Australian four of Glenn O'Shea, Alexander Edmondson, Michael Hepburn and Alexander Morgan, beat Olympic champions Steven Burke, Andrew Tennant and their new teammates Edward Clancy and Samuel Harrison by more than four seconds in the 4,000-meter race.

"It's so fantastic for us," O'Shea said. "We knew it is going to be very close."

Denmark won bronze by beating Spain. □

Gold medalist Sarah Hammer, center, of USA, is flanked by silver winner Amy Cure, left, of Australia, and bronze winner Annette Edmondson, also of Australia, during the awarding ceremony of the Women's Individual Pursuit during the Track Cycling World Championships in Minsk, Belarus, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013.

Associated Press



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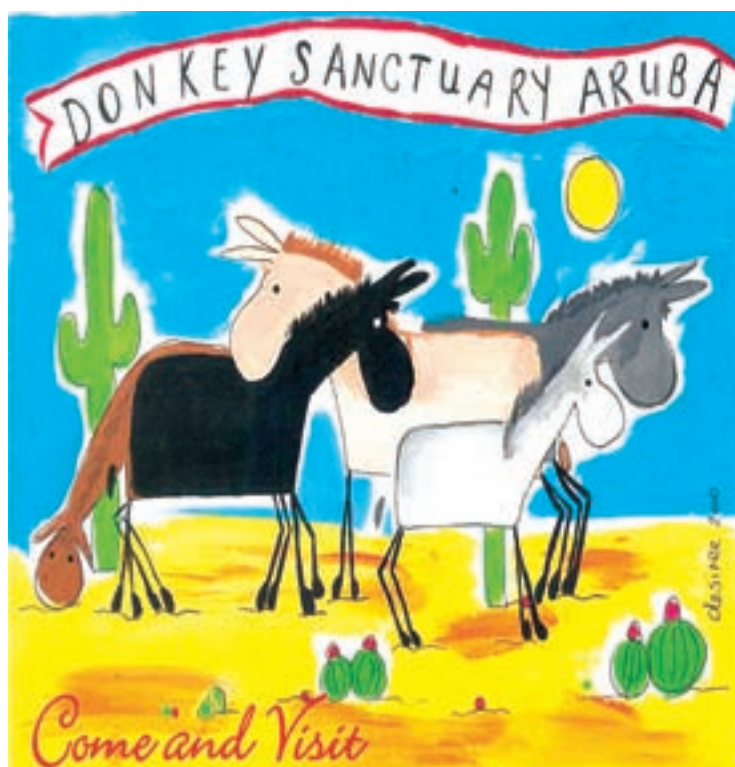
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Blackhawks match record for opening point streak

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks beat the Vancouver Canucks 4-3 in a shootout Tuesday to give them 16 straight games with at least one point, matching the NHL record to start a season.

Patrick Kane and Andrew Shaw scored in the tie-breaker for the Blackhawks (13-0-3), who earned their third consecutive win and joined the 2006-07 Anaheim Ducks as the only teams to record at least one point in the first 16 games of a season. The Ducks got off to a 12-0-4 start that year and won the Stanley Cup.

Chicago will go for the record Friday night when it hosts the San Jose Sharks for the second time in a week. But it could be without Marian Hossa for that one after the star forward had to be helped off the ice during the third period following a forearm to the back of the head from Vancouver forward Jannik Hansen.

Alexander Edler and Kevin Bieksa each scored in the final 2:42 of regulation for the Canucks, who opened a four-game trip with their third consecutive loss. Daniel Sedin had a goal and an assist, and twin brother Henrik had two assists.

Hossa had two goals and Patrick Sharp scored in regulation for the Blackhawks, who have won seven of



Detroit Red Wings center Pavel Datsyuk (13), of Russia, scores against Nashville Predators goalie Pekka Rinne (35), of Finland, in the third period of an NHL hockey game on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn. The Predators won in overtime 4-3.

Associated Press

eight overall. Ray Emery, subbing again for injured Corey Crawford, made 29 saves to improve to 6-0 this season.

CANADIENS 3, RANGERS 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Galchenyuk snapped a tie early in the third period and Montreal held off New York for its fifth consecutive win.

Montreal had 18 shots and made the most of very little offense against Henrik Lundqvist.

The Canadiens tied it late

in the second on Max Pacioretty's goal and went ahead for good when Galchenyuk matched Pacioretty with his second of the season 1:48 into the third. Carey Price was only slightly busier than Lundqvist, making 24 saves for his third win during Montreal's surge. Peter Budaj won the previous two, including a 3-0 home victory over Carolina on Monday.

Raphael Diaz added an empty-net goal with 1:06 remaining for the Cana-

diens, who have outscored opponents 15-5 during their streak.

Defenseman Anton Stralman netted his second of the season in the second period, but it wasn't enough for the Rangers, who played without top-line forward Rick Nash (undisclosed injury) and had a five-game point streak snapped (4-0-1).

LIGHTNING 4, MAPLE LEAFS 2

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Steven Stamkos scored his 10th goal and Benoit Pouliot had three assists as Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Vincent Lecavalier, Alexander Killorn and Matthew Carle also scored for the Lightning, who have won two in a row after an 0-5-1 skid.

Toronto goalie Ben Scrivens had his bid for a third consecutive shutout thwarted midway through the first period on Lecavalier's goal. The Maple Leafs, 7-3-0 on the road this year, got goals from Mikhail Grabovski and James van Riemsdyk.

JETS 2, SABRES 1

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Ondrej Pavelec made 29 saves to help Winnipeg snap a three-game skid with a win over Buffalo.

Andrew Ladd and Bryan Little scored for the Jets, who won for the third time in 10 games while opening

a season-high five-game road swing.

Jason Pominville scored for Buffalo, once again booed by its home crowd. The Sabres are 4-10-1 in their past 15 and have dropped consecutive home games for the first time since last February.

SENATORS 3, ISLANDERS 1

OTTAWA (AP) — Andre Benoit and Dave Dziurzynski scored their first NHL goals, and Craig Anderson made 37 saves to lead Ottawa over New York.

Colin Greening also scored for the Senators.

Travis Hamonic scored for the Islanders, who got 23 saves from Rick DiPietro in his third start this season.

PREDATORS 4, RED WINGS 3, OT

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Shea Weber scored 44 seconds into overtime to give Nashville a victory against slumping Detroit.

Craig Smith, Gabriel Bourque and Roman Josi also scored for the Predators, who had lost their last two games. The Red Wings have dropped four straight.

Daniel Cleary, Jordin Tootoo and Pavel Datsyuk had the Detroit goals.

Coming down the right side, Weber collected the rebound of Colin Wilson's shot and beat a diving Jonas Gustavsson, who replaced injured goalie Jimmy Howard midway through the first period.

SHARKS 2, BLUES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Antti Niemi made 25 saves and Tim Kennedy scored in the third period to help San Jose end a seven-game losing streak with a victory over St. Louis.

The Sharks' skid was their longest since a 10-game slide in November 2005.

Joe Thornton also scored for San Jose, which began the season with a franchise-record seven successive wins.

St. Louis has dropped five consecutive home games. The Blues also had a three-game winning streak halted. They were coming off a 3-0 road trip with wins in Detroit, Calgary and Vancouver. □

Tommy Haas reaches 2nd round at Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Germany's Tommy Haas advanced to the second round of the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships with a 7-6 (6), 6-4 victory over Russia's Evgeny Donskoy on Wednesday. The 34-year-old Haas was a finalist at last week's SAP Open in San Jose. He is a three-time Memphis champion. He won the first ATP Tour title of his career in Memphis 14 years ago.

In other first-round play, former world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt of Australia survived two match points in the second set before beating Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan



2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4. Hewitt, who turns 32 Sunday, is seeking his first title since 2010.

The win by Hewitt was the 571st of his career, giving him a share of 25th place in tour history with Mats Wilander. Wilander won seven Grand Slam titles in the 1980s. In women's second-round matches, top seed Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium advanced with a

Tommy Haas, of Germany, returns a serve to Evgeny Donskoy, of Russia, during the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championships, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013. Haas won 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Associated Press

7-5, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine. No. 3 Sabine Lisicki of Germany beat Melinda Czink of Hungary, 7-6 (0), 4-6, 6-2, but No. 2 seed and defending champion Sofia Arvidsson of Sweden was eliminated by Marina Erakovic of New Zealand 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. Arvidsson defeated Erakovic in last year's final. No. 4 seed Heather Watson of Britain and eighth seed Kristina Mladenovic moved into the quarterfinals. Watson beat Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 and Mladenovic defeated Victoria Duval 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. □



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Johnson's OT buzzer-beater lifts Nets past Bucks

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Johnson hit a tying 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter and then his buzzer-beating jumper at the end of overtime lifted the Brooklyn Nets to a 113-111 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

Johnson finished with 24 points, and Brook Lopez and Deron Williams added 19 each as the Nets snapped a 13-game losing streak against the Bucks dating back to March 30, 2009.

Brandon Jennings scored 34 points to lead the Bucks. Ersan Ilyasova had 21 points, Monta Ellis added 18 and Larry Sanders 14.

Jennings saw his short jumper go in and out with 15 seconds left in overtime. After a Nets timeout, Johnson was intentionally fouled by Luc Mbah a Moute with 5 seconds left. The Nets in-bounded again and Johnson won the game with his foul line jumper over Mbah A Moute.

BULLS 96, HORNETS 87
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Luol Deng scored 20 points and Chicago snapped a two-game skid.

The Bulls took the lead for good late in the first quarter, but didn't put the Hornets away until Deng's clutch jumper from the top of the key with 44.8 seconds left put Chicago up 94-87 after New Orleans had pulled within five points on Eric Gordon's 3-pointer.

Carlos Boozer added 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakim Noah had 15 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, which out-rebounded New Orleans 47-39 and had 15 second-chance points.

Gordon finished with 20 and Anthony Davis had 15



Brooklyn Nets guard Joe Johnson (7) scores over Milwaukee Bucks forward Luc Mbah a Moute (12) with time expiring for a 113-11 overtime victory in their NBA basketball game at Barclays Center, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 in New York.

Associated Press

points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which saw its two-game winning streak snapped after committing nine of its 15 turnovers in the final quarter. Greivis Vasquez had 11 points and 10 assists.

GRIZZLIES 105, PISTONS 91
AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Mike Conley scored 19 points, Zach Randolph had his 31st double-double and Memphis won its fourth straight game Tuesday night, 105-91 at Detroit.

Randolph had 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Grizzlies rode a strong second half to win in both teams' first game since the All Star break.

Brandon Knight and Jonas Jerebko each scored 13 points and Jose Calderon added 10 points and seven assists for the Pistons, who have lost two of their last three at home.

The Grizzlies trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half, but ended it on a 23-3 run to lead 53-42 at intermission. The Pistons managed just one basket in the final eight minutes of the half and had twice

as many turnovers as field goals (8-4) in the second quarter.

RAPTORS 96, WIZARDS 88
WASHINGTON (AP) — DeMar DeRozan and Rudy Gay scored 24 points apiece, and Toronto won a matchup between slow-starting, coming-on-lately teams.

Playing with an improvised scoreboard, horn, game clock and 24-second clock because of a malfunction in the scoring system, the Raptors took the lead for good in the second quarter and won their fifth straight game, putting them one victory shy of last season's total.

The Raptors have also won three in a row on the road for the first time since 2007 and are 6-2 since Gay arrived last month from the Memphis Grizzlies in a three-team trade.

Rookie Bradley Beal, back in the starting lineup for the first time since taking time off to heal a sprained right wrist, scored 25 points for the Wizards, who had won eight of nine at home.

BOBCATS 105, MAGIC 92

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Kemba Walker and Gerald Henderson each had 24 points, Byron Mullens

added 20 points and 12 rebounds and Charlotte survived Orlando's second-half comeback. □





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Jeremy Renner Gemma Arterton

With Spanish Subtitles

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With Spanish Subtitles

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STARTING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28



Miguel Céspedes Raymond Pozo

Personal Health: Women smokers catching the men

JANE E. BRODY

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The title of a recent report on smoking and health might well have paraphrased the popular ad campaign for Virginia Slims, introduced in 1968 by Philip Morris and aimed at young professional women: "You've come a long way, baby."

Today that slogan should include: "... toward a shorter life." Ten years shorter, in fact.

The new report is one of two rather shocking analyses of the hazards of smoking and the benefits of quitting published last month in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The data show that "women who smoke like men die like men who smoke," Dr. Steven A. Schroeder, a professor of health and health care at the University of California, San Francisco, wrote in an accompanying editorial.

That was not always the case. Half a century ago, the risk of death from lung cancer among men who smoked was five times higher than that among women smokers. But by the first decade of this century, that risk had equalized: for both men and women who smoked, the risk of death from lung cancer was 25 times greater than for nonsmokers, Dr. Michael J. Thun of the American Cancer Society and his colleagues reported.

Today, women who smoke are even more likely than men who smoke to die of lung cancer.

According to a second study in the same journal, women smokers face a 17.8 times greater risk of dying of lung cancer than women who do not smoke; men who smoke are at 14.6 times greater risk to die of lung cancer than men who don't. Women who smoke now face a risk of death from lung cancer that is 50 percent higher than the estimates reported in the 1980s, according to Dr. Prabhat Jha of the Center for Global Health Research in Toronto and his colleagues.

After controlling for age, body weight, education level and alcohol use, the new analysis found something else: Men and women who continue to smoke die on average more than 10 years sooner than those who never smoked.

Dramatic progress has been made in reducing the prevalence of smoking, which has fallen in the United States from 42 percent of adults in 1965 (the year after the first surgeon general's report on smoking and health) to 19 percent in 2010. Yet smoking still results in nearly 200,000 deaths a year among people 35 to 69 years old



New data find that female smokers are now even more likely than male smokers to die of lung cancer. (Keith Negley/The New York Times)

in this country. A quarter of all deaths in this age group would not occur if smokers had the same risk of death as nonsmokers.

The risks are even greater among men 55 to 74 and women 60 to 74. More than two-thirds of all deaths among current smokers in these age groups are related to smoking. Overall, the death rate from all causes combined in these age groups "is now at least three times as high among current smokers as among those who have never smoked," Thun's team found.

While lung cancer is the most infamous hazard linked to smoking, the habit also raises the risk of death from heart disease, stroke, pulmonary disease and other cancers, includ-

ing breast cancer.

Furthermore, changes in how cigarettes are manufactured may have increased the dangers of smoking. The use of perforated filters, tobacco blends that are less irritating, and paper that is more porous made it easier to inhale smoke and encouraged deeper inhalation to achieve satisfying blood levels of nicotine.

The result of deeper inhalation, Thun's report suggests, has been an increased risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, and a shift in the kind of lung cancer linked to smoking. Among nonsmokers, the risk of death from COPD has declined by 45 percent in men and has remained stable in women, but the death rate has more than doubled among smokers.

But there is good news, too: It's never too late to reap the benefits of quitting. The younger you are when you stop smoking, the greater your chances of living a long and healthy life, according to the findings of Jha's international team.

The team analyzed smoking and smoking-cessation histories of 113,752 women and 88,496 men 25 and older and linked them to causes of deaths in these groups through 2006.

Those who quit smoking by age 34 lived 10 years longer on average than those who continued to smoke, giving them a life expectancy comparable to people who never smoked. Smokers who quit between ages 35 and 44 lived nine years longer, and those who quit between 45 and 54 lived six years longer. Even quitting smoking between ages 55 and 64 resulted in a four-year gain in life expectancy.

The researchers emphasized, however, that the numbers do not mean it is safe to smoke until age 40 and then stop. Former smokers who quit by 40 still experienced a 20 percent greater risk of death than nonsmokers. □

Supreme Court gives FTC win on hospital mergers

ANDREW POLLACK

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The Supreme Court on Tuesday strengthened the power of the Federal Trade Commission to block hospital mergers, issuing an opinion that could limit the ability of public hospital authorities to claim immunity from federal antitrust laws. The unanimous decision restored the authority of the FTC to challenge the merger of the only two hospitals in Albany, Ga.

Some experts said the decision could mean that hospitals will have to be more cognizant of antitrust considerations when they join forces with other health care providers to form so-called accountable care organizations, as called for in the new health care law. "I think this is going to limit one of the lines of defense that the ACOs will have," said David Dranove, professor of health industry management at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Various hospitals are merging now, often arguing that combining broadens the range of services and makes them more efficient. But consolidation can also increase the hospitals' leverage with insurance companies, leading to higher prices.

In the Georgia case, the FTC had tried to block the acquisition of HCA Holdings' Palmyra Medical Center by Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, which is owned by the Hospital Authority of Albany-Dougherty County. States are generally exempt from federal antitrust laws, and that immunity can extend to local governments. Both the U.S. District Court in Georgia and the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Albany deal was exempt because it was under the auspices of the county hospital authority. But the Supreme Court said that local governments qualify for antitrust immunity only when they are acting pursuant to a clearly articulated state

policy to limit competition. And that was not the case in Georgia.

"We hold that Georgia has not clearly articulated and affirmatively expressed a policy to allow hospital authorities to make acquisitions that substantially lessen competition," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the court.

Jon Leibowitz, the FTC chief, called the decision a "big victory for consumers who want to see lower health care costs."

The hospitals consummated the merger after the appeals court ruling in their favor in 2011, but the FTC might now try to undo it. The case is expected to return to the lower court.

The federal agency might ask for an injunction to halt further integration of the hospitals while a separate proceeding determines whether the merger would indeed violate antitrust laws. Barbara Eyman, general counsel for the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, said the decision would "make it harder for public hospitals, at least the public hospitals in Georgia, to achieve their mission." Eyman, whose organization filed a brief on the side of the Georgia hospitals, said that nonprofit hospitals providing charity care should not be subject to the same antitrust restrictions as profit-making hospitals.

She and other lawyers said that not many hospital mergers would fit the circumstances of the Supreme Court case.

"To my knowledge there aren't a lot of cases pending waiting for this decision," said Jay Levine, an antitrust partner with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Washington, who was not involved in the case.

Matthew Cantor, an antitrust lawyer at Constantine Cannon in New York, said that the degree to which accountable care organizations could be subject to antitrust scrutiny would depend on each state's law. □

Yahoo redesign aims to make site more inviting

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Yahoo is renovating the main entry into its website in an effort to get people to visit more frequently and stay longer.

The long-awaited make-over of Yahoo.com's home page is the most notable change to the website since the Internet company hired Marissa Mayer as its CEO seven months ago. The new look debuted Wednesday in the U.S., although it could take a few more days before everyone starts to see it.

It's the first time Yahoo has redesigned the page in four years. In that time, the company has seen its annual revenue drop by about 30 percent from \$7.2 billion in 2008 to \$5 billion last year as more online advertising flowed to rivals such as Internet search leader Google Inc. and social networking leader Facebook Inc. Mayer, who spent 13 years helping to build Google into the Internet's most powerful company, has vowed to revive Yahoo Inc.'s revenue growth by establishing more of the company's



This image released by NBC shows host Savannah Guthrie, left, with Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer on NBC News' "Today" show, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 in New York as Mayer introduces the website's redesign.

Associated Press

services as daily habits that "delight and inspire" their users.

Yahoo.com's revamped home page figures to play a key role in determining whether Mayer, 37, realizes her ambition.

"We think this will be the new foundation for Yahoo," said Mike Kerns, the company's vice president of product.

Despite the company's recent financial malaise, Yahoo's home page has remained one of the Internet's top destinations. The page attracted 392 million worldwide visitors last month, a 7 percent increase from 365 million at the same time last year, according to research firm comScore Inc. By comparison, Microsoft Corp.'s msn.

com drew a crowd of 334 million, up 4 percent from last year.

But visitors haven't been spending as much time at Yahoo.com when they check in. They also haven't been making as many return visits each month. That's been a problem for many other websites, too, as Facebook and other online hangouts capture

more of people's online time.

Yahoo's revamped home page isn't a radical new look, but there are enough changes that could make the website more addictive. In a blog post, Mayer wrote that she is trying to infuse Yahoo's home page with a "more modern experience."

The biggest switch will be in how Yahoo determines which stories to show each visitor on the home page and how the information is displayed. Kerns says Yahoo has developed more sophisticated formulas to determine which topics are most likely to appeal to different people so the news feed can be fine-tuned to cater to different tastes. bYahoo, which is based in Sunnyvale, California, already knows a lot about people who have been coming to its website for years, particularly if they logged in while visiting. People willing to connect Yahoo with their social circles on Facebook also are more apt to see stories that appeal to them. That access will enable Yahoo to pick out stories about subjects tied to a person's interests on Facebook, either directly or through their online friendships. More tools will empower users to designate their areas of interest, too. The news feed also has been retooled so it is constantly refreshed with more material as a person scrolls down the page. The ability to endlessly peruse stories is ideally suited for viewing on smartphones and tablet computers controlled by touch, although the feature also works on desktop machines operated with a mouse or keyboard. Yahoo's new home page also shows snippets of text from each story, borrowing a page from the Google playbook that Mayer helped write. Those summaries may be especially handy on the smaller screens of mobile devices, a growing market that Mayer has said Yahoo must do a better job reaching if the company hopes to bounce back. □

HTC shows off new phone for 'One' line

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

HTC Corp., the struggling Taiwanese maker of smartphones, is taking a page from longtime partner Microsoft Corp. as it launches a new phone under the One brand. The phone runs Google Inc.'s Android software, but HTC is grafting its own home screen on the phone, one that's similar to that of Microsoft's Windows Phone software.

HTC Corp.'s BlinkFeed interface consists of large tiles that update automatically with information and photos from news sites and social networks.

The phone will go on sale in late March. HTC says U.S. partners will include AT&T,

Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile, but specific availability dates and prices were not announced.

The new HTC One has a 4.7-inch (12-centimeter) screen, making it larger than the iPhone but smaller than some other Android phones, including HTC's own 5-inch (12.5-centimeter) Droid DNA, which launched in November. The HTC One has the same screen resolution as the larger phone, at 1920 by 1080 pixels.

At a press event in New York, HTC's design director Jonah Becker emphasized precision machining that goes into making the virtually all-metal body of the phone. In a design reminiscent of the iPhone 5,



This undated handout photo provided by HTC Corp., shows the company's new One phone. HTC, the struggling Taiwanese maker of smartphones, is taking a page from longtime partner Microsoft Corp. as it launches a new phone under the One brand.

Associated Press

HTC has eliminated all the little gaps between different parts, giving the phone a smooth, tight feel in the hand.

HTC One features two speakers, at the top and bottom of the screen, producing a stereo effect when the phone is turned

on its side for movie viewing. Another unusual feature is an infrared diode that lets the phone serve as a universal remote for a TV or media center.

HTC sold 32 million smartphones last year according to research firm Gartner, giving it about 4 percent of the worldwide market. Unit sales were down 26 percent from HTC's peak in 2011. □

US wholesale inflation rate remains mild

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. wholesale prices rose only slightly in January after three straight declines, the latest sign that inflation is posing no threat. It means the Federal Reserve has room to keep interest rates at record lows without worrying about igniting inflation.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that its producer price index rose 0.2 percent last month, the first increase since September. Gasoline and other energy prices fell, while food prices jumped 0.7 percent after dropping sharply in December.

The index measures the cost of goods before they reach consumers. Wholesale prices are what manufacturers and farmers receive for their products.

In the past 12 months, wholesale prices have risen just 1.4 percent, down from a 4.1 percent increase for the 12 months that ended in January 2012. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core prices rose 0.2 percent in January. They have risen a mild 1.8 percent over the past 12 months.

"The annual growth rates ... are no threat to the Fed's inflation target," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. The Fed's target inflation rate is 2 percent. If prices were to begin rising rapidly, the central bank might be forced to raise rates to try to slow inflation. Wholesale gas prices dropped 2.1 percent in January, the department said. Since then, pump prices have risen sharply.

That is likely to push up inflation at the wholesale and consumer levels in coming months.

Nationwide, the average price of gas was \$3.75 a gallon (\$1 a liter) on Tuesday, according to AAA. That's an increase of 45 cents a gallon in just the past month. □

Office Depot agrees to buy OfficeMax in stock deal

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Office Depot and OfficeMax are being collated.

The retailers said Wednesday they have agreed to combine in an all-stock

as "big box" stores have become outmoded and more people shop online. Liang Feng, a Morningstar analyst, said the combination would be positive for the companies. But he said it might not be enough

Office Depot Inc. and OfficeMax, along with bigger rival Staples Inc., were all founded in the mid- to late 1980s and helped pioneer the big-box boom in the 1990s. They expanded rapidly in the U.S. throughout the decade.

But the rise in competition from web retailers like Amazon.com and discounters like Costco and Wal-Mart has been tough on the sector, leading to decreased sales. In addition, office suppliers were slow to bounce back from the recession, as consumers and small businesses alike cut back on ordering office products.

Over the years, the companies have closed stores, slashed costs and streamlined operations to offset stagnant sales. But the industry was still seen as too bulky, and for years, rumors about possible consolidation have swirled around the sector, which is worth about \$21.2 billion, according to research firm IBISWorld Inc. Of that, Staples holds a 35 percent market share, Office Depot has 26.1 and Office Max has 15.6.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the possibility of a deal between Of-

fice Depot and OfficeMax on Monday, sending stock across the sector soaring on Tuesday. Office Depot reported the terms of the deal in a release on its website early Wednesday morning, but then removed it, which caused some confusion. The company then restored the release after the market opened.

Office Depot did not respond to requests for an explanation. But Morningstar's Feng said he doesn't expect the premature release to damage the companies.

"I don't think it will cause that much of headache for the companies unless the deal doesn't go through," he said. Boca Raton, Florida-based Office Depot and Naperville, Illinois-based OfficeMax said holders of OfficeMax shares will receive 2.69 shares of Office Depot for every OfficeMax share they own. That's equal to about \$13.50 per share, based on Office Depot's \$5.02 per share closing price Tuesday, giving the deal a total value of about \$1.2 billion. OfficeMax had about 86.7 million shares outstanding as of Oct. 26, according to SEC filings. □



In the first move toward consolidation in an industry that is bloated with brick and mortar stores, Office Depot and OfficeMax have merged.

(Handout Photo)

deal worth about \$1.2 billion that would transform the office-supply retail sector, helping the No. 2 and No. 3 chains compete against industry behemoth Staples. The first move toward consolidation in an industry that is bloated with stores reflects the changing retail landscape

to help the combined company succeed in the changing marketplace.

"The industry will face longer term structural headwinds with competitors like Amazon, Costco gaining ground and the decline in demand for secular office products like paper, pens and ink," he said.

US housing starts dip but remain at solid pace

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. homebuilders began work at a slower pace in January than in December. But all of the drop occurred in the volatile area of apartment construction, which sank 24 percent. By contrast, the rate of single-family homebuilding rose 0.8 percent. Even with the overall decline, the pace of home construction in January was the third-highest since 2008 and was evidence of continued strengthening in residential real estate.

And in an encouraging sign for the rest of the year, applications for building permits, a signal of future construction, topped December's rate. Applications for permits are at their highest point since mid-



U.S. homebuilders began work at a slower pace in January, though the level was still the third-highest since 2008. The pace of building was viewed as a sign of further strengthening in residential real estate.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

2008.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that builders started work at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 890,000 homes last

month. That was down 8.5 percent from December, when housing starts had hit an annual rate of 973,000, the most since June 2008. Analysts had expected a

decline on January construction, given the sharp gain in December. December had initially been reported at an annual rate of 920,000. On Wednesday, the department revised up the December pace to 973,000.

January's was only the second drop in construction in the past six months. It still left the annual pace of homebuilding 23.6 percent higher than a year ago.

Economists noted that building permits keep increasing. Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist for BTIG, said the increase in permits suggested that the January decline in construction starts would be temporary and that "as the year progresses, housing starts will continue to push higher." □

Stocks drop following Fed doubts about stimulus

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market posted its biggest loss this year Wednesday on news that Federal Reserve officials suggested the central bank scale back its effort to keep borrowing costs low.

Minutes from the Fed's January meeting seemed to catch investors by surprise when they were released at 2 p.m. EST. Several Fed policymakers worried that the bank's program of buying \$85 billion of bonds each month could eventually unsettle financial markets or cause the bank to take losses. Even so, most of the Fed officials thought the economy faced fewer risks than in December.

Judging by the market's reaction, the Fed appears to be closer to ending its support for the U.S. economy than traders had expected, said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at the brokerage BTIG. "We're at a point now where we're discussing how we're going to end this, not whether it's going to end," he said.

The S&P 500 index sank 18.99 points to 1,511.95, a loss off 1.2 percent. That's the biggest one-day drop since Nov. 14, 2012.

By buying bonds, the Fed drives up their prices and lowers interest rates, which have stayed at record lows. That keeps costs low

for mortgages and other types of loans.

The major indexes drifted sideways in morning trading then turned lower in the early afternoon after Caterpillar reported weaker

average fell 108 points, or less than 1 percent, to close at 13,927. Merck helped curb the Dow's fall, rising 1 percent, on news that it teamed up with a Korean drugmaker to create drugs.



From right, Chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke and other dignitaries attend a group photo ceremony at a meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Moscow, Russia.

(AP Photo/Misha Japaridze)

sales of its heavy trucks and mining equipment. Stocks fell further after traders had time to digest the Fed minutes.

The S&P 500 lost 11 points in the last hour and a half of trading.

The Dow Jones industrial

The Nasdaq composite fell 49 points, or 1.5 percent, to 3,164.

News that Apple's major supplier, Foxconn, stopped hiring at its largest plant in China helped push down Apple's stock. Foxconn reportedly said the hiring

freeze was not caused by slumping orders for iPhones. Apple fell \$11.14 to \$448.85. The stock market surged at the start of the year then drifted slightly higher in recent weeks with few major events to drive trading one way or another. That could change as soon as Congress returns from vacation next Monday. Deep federal spending cuts are scheduled to start March 1 unless Congress and the White House find a way to avoid them.

Both the Dow and the S&P 500 have gained 6 percent for the year. The Nasdaq is up 5 percent.

Before the Fed minutes came out, Phil Orlando, the chief market strategist at Federated Investors, said he believed the stock market had climbed too quickly and was prone to a big drop. He expected the S&P 500 to get knocked down by 3 percent or more in the coming weeks. Another budget battle in Washington could be the trigger.

"There are a lot of us who

say, 'We're a little bit ahead of ourselves here,'" Orlando said. "I still expect an all-time high for the S&P 500 this year, but it's going to get there in fits and starts."

Even though housing construction slowed down in January, the Department of Commerce reported Wednesday that new housing starts remained strong. Builders started construction at an annual rate of 890,000 last month, down 8.5 percent from December. Applications for building permits increased.

The Dow closed at its highest level of the year Tuesday, bringing it within one percent of 14,164, the record high reached more than five years ago.

In the U.S. government bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 2.01 percent from 2.03 percent late Tuesday. The yield has climbed steadily higher since the start of the year, when it traded around 1.70 percent. □

Harvest ends \$725M sale of Venezuelan interests

HOUSTON (AP) — Energy company Harvest Natural Resources says it is dropping a planned \$725 million sale of its Venezuelan interests to Indonesia's national oil company after that country's government declined to approve the deal.

Shares fell almost 35 percent in premarket trading. Harvest had announced the agreement in June between its subsidiary HNR Energia BV and Indonesian government-owned PT Pertamina.

It expected net proceeds

of about \$525 million from the deal. Harvest called the deal a big step forward in a strategic alternatives initiative that it started in 2010.

Harvest Natural Resources Inc. is based in Texas but has operations in Venezu-

ela, exploration assets in Indonesia, West Africa, China and Oman and business development offices in Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Its shares dropped \$3.16 to \$6 in premarket trading Wednesday. □

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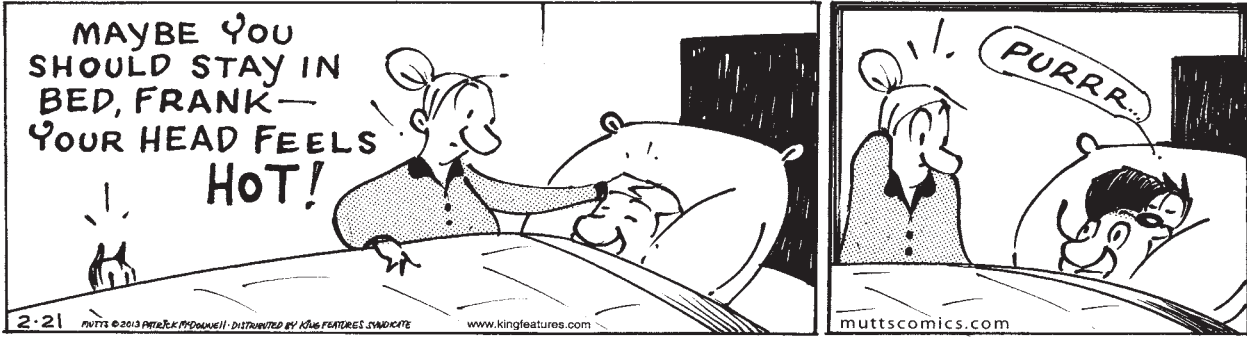
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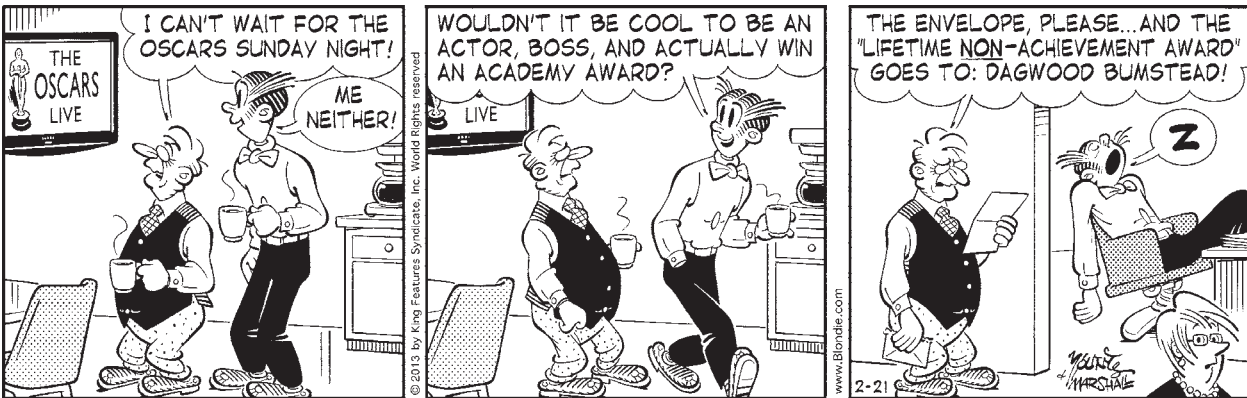
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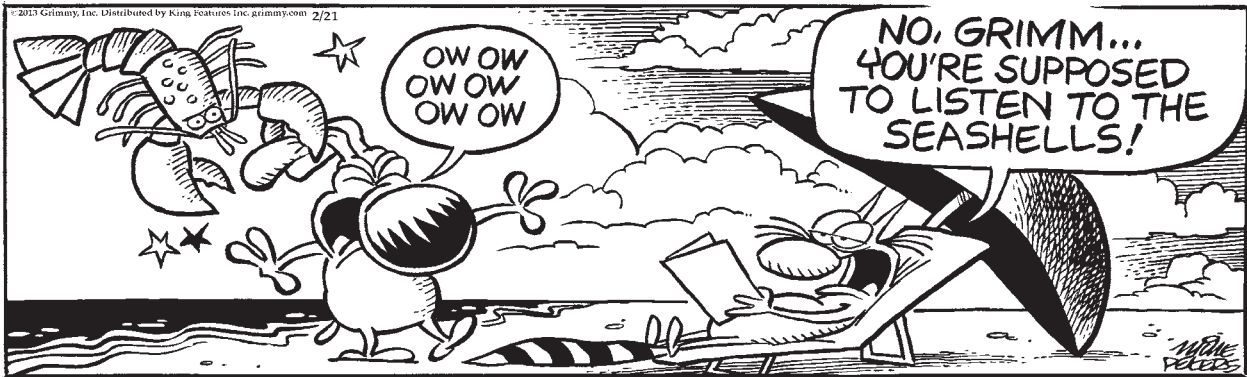
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1		3				
	5	7			9	2
2		4			6	
			2		6	3
3						8
8	6		5			
6				3		7
9	4		7	8		
			1		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/21

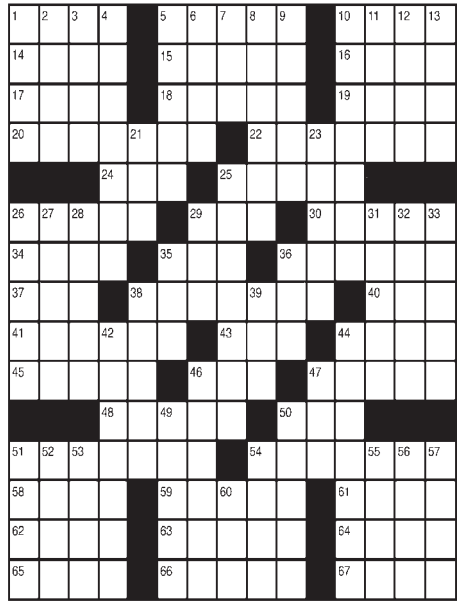
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	3	5	1	9	4	2	8	6
4	6	9	8	2	3	5	1	7
2	1	8	7	6	5	4	3	9
5	4	7	2	3	9	8	6	1
9	8	6	4	1	7	3	2	5
3	2	1	5	8	6	7	9	4
1	9	4	3	7	2	6	5	8
8	5	3	6	4	1	9	7	2
6	7	2	9	5	8	1	4	3

ACROSS

- 1 More or __; approximately
5 Picture cards
10 __ ahead; be foresightful
14 Egg's shape
15 Look for expectantly
16 In a __; furious
17 City near Lake Tahoe
18 High-IQ group
19 On __ toes; alert
20 Not indecent
22 Least harsh
24 __-been; one no longer popular
25 Relinquished
26 Drew or Mariah
29 Made a lap
30 Meat shunner
34 Fibbed
35 __ person; apiece
36 Lose weight
37 Sooty particle
38 Booze
40 " __ we there yet?"
41 Like sweaty palms
43 Bather's spot
44 Dancer Astaire
45 Shish __; BBQ favorite
46 Pass away
47 Lather-topped
48 Lukewarm
50 Ho-__; boring
51 Fertilizers
54 Casino visitor
58 Drug addict
59 Glowing coal fragment
61 Bean variety
62 Get fatigued
63 Portions
64 TV show award
65 Small boys
66 Long cut
67 Bodies of water
- 2 Hardly __; rarely
3 Rational
4 Walked through water
5 __ Earl Jones
6 Amazed
7 Is able to
8 Fate
9 Prim & proper
10 Nudged
11 Walkway; path
12 Grows gray
13 Robin's home
21 Utter
23 Raze
25 Neck artery
26 Clickety-
27 Bridal path
28 Phys. therapy
29 1/60 of a min.
31 On __; watchful
32 Farmland units
33 Impoverished
35 Plank thickness
36 Lowe or Estes
38 Yellowish-brown
39 Color
- DOWN
1 British Upper House member



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/21/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

PIT	AESOP	MALI
ACES	PLANE	OWED
NEAT	PAIRES	DEAL
DRAMATIST	ESPY	
DOLE	EAR	
SERIAL	SURINAME	
CLOUT	LOSER	WAN
ROAM	FIRE	GAIT
APR	MINTS	SEIZE
MESSAGES	ROSTER	
MPH	LEFT	
SOFA	TARANTULA	
CHIC	ELITE	ROBS
OINK	RESEW	EVER
TOES	SEERS	EDS

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2/21/13

- 42 Ripens
44 Drops the ball
46 Bleak; gloomy
47 Total
49 Marshmallow
Easter candies
50 Severe
51 Mongrel
52 Iran's continent
- 53 Bookish fellow
54 Acquires
55 Green citrus
56 Actress Samms
57 Sunbeams
60 Victoria's Secret purchase, perhaps

Fur flying over Gillette ads



SAO PAULO (AP) — Hate that hair? In Brazil, beware. A self-regulatory council for Brazil's advertising industry is looking into complaints against razor maker Gillette for running body-

shaving commercials. Council spokesman Eduardo Correa says 20 consumers have filed complaints that the campaign "encourages prejudice against hairy men." □

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Occidental Grand
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US\$20.000

Oceania Condos
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\$750.000

Aruba Phoenix
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1 bdr wk 6 room #613 38 weeks left on the contract \$22000

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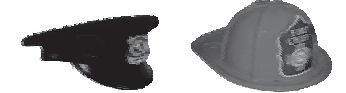
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U.S. research chimps savor retirement at new home

JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

KEITHVILLE, Louisiana (AP)

— For the first time in their lives, four aging chimpanzees once used in U.S. government research can go outside whenever they like. They can lie on the grass, clamber onto a platform on a chimp-style jungle gym and gaze freely at the open sky, the vista unbroken by steel bars.

Fifty-two-year-olds Julius and Sandy, 46-year-old Phyllis and 44-year-old Jessica have arrived. These and several other primates are now “living like chimpanzees” as they play, groom each other and tussle at Chimp Haven in Louisiana — the only national sanctuary for retired federal research chimps.

Julius’ group is among 111 chimpanzees coming to Chimp Haven over the next 18 months from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s New Iberia Research Center. They could be the vanguard of a much larger immigration of former research chimps.

A National Institutes of Health committee recommended Jan. 22 that most of the other 350 federally owned research chimpanzees be retired to “the federal sanctuary system” — a system of one.

The proposal to retire all but about 50 federally owned chimpanzees is the latest step in a gradual shift away from using chimps as test subjects, owing to technological advances and growing ethical concerns about research on primates that share more than 98 percent of the DNA



Adrienne Mrsny, an animal care specialist, feeds chimps in a section reserved for HIV infected chimps at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La., Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

Associated Press



A chimp climbs a pine tree at Chimp Haven in Keithville, La., Monday, Feb. 18, 2013. One hundred and eleven chimpanzees will be coming from a south Louisiana laboratory to Chimp Haven, the national sanctuary for chimpanzees retired from federal research.

Associated Press

of humans.

Research on the chimps has ranged from psychological studies to trying to develop vaccines for HIV and hepatitis.

The Chimp Haven newcomers led by Julius were among nine that arrived Jan. 22. Another seven arrived later that week and eight more Tuesday.

New arrivals spend 17 days in quarantine before being moved into an indoor bedroom area near a bedroom occupied by chimps already settled into the sanctuary, to see how they get along.

Staffers say it’s amazing to see them savor new freedoms.

“They light up, look up at the sky, look at us watching them,” behaviorist Amy Fultz said.

Like most newcomers to Chimp Haven, Julius’ group first explored the edges of its new surroundings. Their play yards are surrounded by a high concrete wall that can’t be climbed.

Chimps in the wild make regular perimeter patrols, alert for any encroaching bands and for a chance to expand their own territory. These retirees will send the

rest of their lives at the sanctuary in a forested park belonging to the Caddo Parish government, which donated the land to Chimp Haven.

The 111 incoming chimps include a total of eight youngsters; one was born to a female chimp with HIV. On Tuesday, Conan’s crowd was in a play area, catching fruit thrown by staffers.

A female named Sheila slapped her hands together and then held up an arm to attract attention.

A few minutes’ walk away, another group of 15 chimps raced from the steel mesh tunnel between their sleeping area and a forested habitat toward an array of fruits and vegetables strewn on the ground.

Indoor bedrooms, furnished with straw and blankets for making nests, and old fire hose for climbing, have steel mesh interior walls to keep chimps in.

Chimps with HIV, hepatitis or other major medical or psy-

chological problems have outdoor areas surrounded by the same wide, heavy steel mesh. The peaked ceilings are of pipes laid a few inches apart from each other so the chimps can swing across the ceiling arm over arm, as they might in trees.

“Those spaces are huge. They’re huge,” said Lori Gruen, a Wesleyan University philosophy professor who specializes in animal ethics.

Chimp Haven is “a pretty remarkable facility. I think it will be quite interesting and exciting to see it expand.”

But there’s a major hurdle. When Chimp Haven was made the national sanctuary in 2002, Congress capped spending on the project at \$30 million. That cap will be hit this year.

U.S. Rep. John Fleming, a Republican representing northwest Louisiana, said in a statement that any additional federal spending “will be difficult” in the current budget climate of mounting federal debt and ongoing national security priorities.

Kathleen Conlee, vice president for animal research issues of the Humane Society of the United States, and other advocates say there’s no need for additional spending if Congress would let NIH put money now spent on research contracts into the animals’ retirement.

With help from the Humane Society and other non-profit groups, the sanctuary has in recent months raised \$2.6 million needed to add bedrooms, six play yards and an open-air enclosure to accommodate all 111 federal chimps coming from New Iberia and another \$100,000 toward a total \$5.1 million goal announced in November.

“We certainly expect and hope the cap will be extended,” said Cathy Willis Spratz, who became president of Chimp Haven three weeks ago.

If it isn’t? “Then we have to rely on our wonderful donors,” she said. □

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'Twilight' author Meyer plots another trilogy

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Stephenie Meyer's "The Host" doesn't have much in common with her Twilight series, except maybe the potential for a franchise. Meyer is working on a sequel to the 2008 novel she began writing as an escape from the editing of "Eclipse," the third book in the Twilight vampire saga. And now that it too has reached the big screen, she's got more books in mind. "Once you've created characters that have life to them, unless you kill them all, you know where their stories go. You're always aware of what happens next," Meyer told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. "I've got outlines for the next books. I would hope that this would be a three-book arc, but we'll see." At an advance screening of "The Host," which premieres March 29, Meyer said she wrote the book when she was "kind of overwhelmed with vampires and red ink and a lot of people kind of having expectations of what they wanted from the next book and knowing that I wasn't always answering those." "The Host" trades the vampires and werewolves of Meyer's previous works for space invaders. An alien race takes over the minds of their human hosts but leaves their bodies intact so that they can perfect the planet they believed humans were ruining. One human, a young woman named Melanie Stryder, refuses to

give up her head space so easily. Saoirse Ronan plays both Melanie and her alien invader in the film. Max Irons and Jake Abel play her love interests.

"The Host" will inevitably draw comparisons to the book and film series that made Meyer a phenomenon, but she hopes the story stands alone and appeals to a broader audience than just "Twihards." For one thing, she calls it her "guy friendly" work because it explores bonds and loyalties beyond simple romantic love.

"When you're a teenager, love feels like life and death, but this is actual life and death, which is kind of more fun," Meyer told the Miami audience. "Not to mention all the explosions and gunfire," said Abel, who plays Ian O'Shea, one of the human rebels in the story.

What "The Host" does have in common with the Twilight saga is a love triangle, though one complicated further by two distinct entities sharing one body.

"Jake and Max call it the 'love box,'" Meyer told AP.

Though she's attracted to complicated relationships, that conflict probably won't surface in the sequel she's writing.

"I feel like the 'love box,' as it is, is played out in this novel. It completely resolves into two happy places, so that won't be a focus going forward," Meyer said. □



This Feb. 19, 2013 photo shows author Stephenie Meyer speaking in Miami. Meyer, author of the "Twilight" saga says she's working on a new series.

Associated Press

Autopsy confirms Mindy McCready's death as suicide

HEBER SPRINGS, Arkansas (AP) — Authorities say preliminary autopsy results confirm country music singer Mindy McCready's death was a suicide.

The Cleburne County sheriff said in a statement Wednesday that preliminary autopsy results from Arkansas' state crime lab show McCready's death was a suicide from a single gunshot wound to the head. Investigators have said McCready apparently shot and killed her late boyfriend's dog before she turned the gun on herself Sunday at her home. Authorities found McCready's body and the dog on the front porch where her longtime boyfriend, musician David Wilson, died last month of a gunshot wound

to the head.

Authorities are investigating Wilson's death as a suicide but haven't deter-



In this Aug. 22, 2006 file photo, Country singer Mindy McCready answers questions outside the courtroom in Franklin, Tenn.

Associated Press

mined an official cause of death yet. □

Stevie Wonder says U.N. Day Concert to be on TV

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Stevie Wonder says a concert devoted to peace is going from the stage to television.

"Stevie Wonder With Friends: Celebrating a Message of Peace" will premiere Saturday on Centric. The musical celebration took place at the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York last October.

"It was a great night," said Wonder, who hosted the concert. "People not only sang about it but their spirits were committed to see peace. In this society we are living in, there's a need for peace for all nations throughout the world."

The 90-minute concert celebrated the 67th anniversary of the UN's peacekeeping and crisis management efforts around

the globe.

Performers included Wonder, Sting, Janelle Monae, Wyclef Jean and Elle Var-

I was very, very happy."

Wonder hopes the televised event will encourage others to take part in the



In this Jan. 16, 2013 file photo provided by the United Nations, American recording artist Stevie Wonder records a public service announcement for the United Nations at United Nations headquarters in New York.

Associated Press

ner. "Peace is something we can't just talk about, we got to be about it," the 62-year-old singer said. "The way people participated on that night showed their commitment.

next concert.

"The call for peace is something we should take seriously," he said. "I think we need a peace day every day." The concert will also air March 3 on BET. □



Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger gestures during a press conference to promote his latest film "The Last Stand" in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013. The movie will open on Thursday, Feb. 21, in South Korea.

Associated Press

Schwarzenegger says new film has universal appeal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— For his first starring role since before serving as California's governor for seven years, Arnold Schwarzenegger says he was looking for a film with universal appeal. In "The Last Stand," Schwarzenegger plays the sheriff of an Arizona town tasked with stopping a Mexican cartel boss from returning to Mexico. It's the 65-year-old's first leading role since "Terminator 3" a decade ago.

He said in Seoul on Wednesday that he tries to pick projects that "could be popular not only in America, but all over the world." "The Last Stand," the debut Hollywood film of South Korean director Kim Jee-woon, opens in Seoul on Thursday. Schwarzenegger recalled his memories of South Korea from his bodybuilding days, saying "it's a major player in the world stage economically and in every other way." □

Mike Tyson sues Live Nation over embezzlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— Mike Tyson is suing a financial services firm affiliated with Live Nation, claiming it cost him more than \$5 million due to a former employee's embezzlement and mismanagement. The lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles claims an adviser from SFX Financial Advisory Management Enterprises embezzled more than \$300,000 from the former heavyweight boxing champ. The suit claims the losses hindered Tyson and his wife from emerging from bankruptcy.

SFX is a subsidiary of Live Nation Entertainment Inc. The case claims Tyson and his wife lost millions more by having to hire new attorneys and advisers to handle their financial affairs,



In this Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013 file photo, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson smiles during a promotional event for former five-time champion Evander Holyfield's Real Deal barbecue sauce at a Chicago grocery store.

Associated Press

and they had to turn down lucrative contracts. Messages left for a Live Nation spokeswoman and at the Washington, D.C., offices of SFX were not immediately returned. □

Jane Lynch to star on Broadway in 'Annie'



This Jan. 21, 2013 file photo shows actress Jane Lynch during the 2013 Sundance Film Festival at the Fender Music Lodge in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

— Jane Lynch has something to be gleeful about — she's about to make her Broadway debut. The "Glee" star said Wednesday she'll be replacing Tony Award-winning actress Katie Finneran as the evil orphanage matron Miss Hannigan in the current revival of "Annie." "I'm so thrilled I can't see straight," the actress said by phone from her home in Los Angeles. "It's a preposterous fantasy come true."

Lynch, a veteran of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company, will play Miss Hannigan for eight weeks, from May 16 through July 14. Finneran will depart to film a new NBC comedy series with Michael J. Fox. "It's a real joy for me to step into her shoes, which are large and scare the hell out of me," said Lynch. "But it's good to be scared. It's good to jump off a cliff." Lynch will star opposite Lilla Crawford in the title role and Anthony Warlow as Daddy Warbucks. The music by Charles Strouse with

lyrics by Martin Charnin contains gems like "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile," "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard Knock Life."

Lynch has an Emmy and Golden Globe for playing the track-suited, glee-club-hating cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester on "Glee." Her film credits include "Wreck-It Ralph," "Three Stooges," "The 40 Year old Virgin" and "A Mighty Wind."

She said she knows "every breath of this musical," having grown up listening to the cast album with her mother. She recalls seeing the film in the mid-1980s and adoring Carol Burnett, who played Miss Hannigan.

Lynch finds it funny that she'll go from playing a TV teacher who is fond of random acts of terror to a gin-swilling orphanage head to calls her charges "brats," denies them hot mush and threatens "your days are numbered."

"I do a lot of mean people," she said. "I'm the sweetest person you'll ever meet but I do have a fascination with that kind of cruelty that comes from a very, very soft place." □

Shia LaBeouf pulls out of B'way debut



Actor Shia LaBeouf arrives for the screening of the film "The Necessary Death of Charlie Countryman" at the 63rd edition of the Berlinale, International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013.

Associated Press

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

— Shia LaBeouf is pulling the plug on his Broadway debut. The star of the "Transformers" franchise had been slated to appear opposite Alec Baldwin in "Orphans" but producers said Wednesday that LaBeouf would not be continuing "due to creative differences."

The play by Lyle Kessler, which premiered in 1983, tells the story of two orphaned brothers living in a decrepit Philadelphia

row house who decide to kidnap a wealthy man. LaBeouf played one brother and Baldwin the target. "Orphans" opens March 19 at the Schoenfeld Theatre, directed by Daniel Sullivan. Producers said an announcement on LaBeouf's replacement would be made soon.

LaBeouf, whose films include "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," was most recently seen in John Hillcoat's crime drama "Lawless." □

Pope's Muffled Voice



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

There were reports over the weekend that cardinals might tweak the rules and begin the conclave to choose Pope Benedict XVI's successor sooner than March 15, which had been the earliest date mentioned. That would be a blessing. Already in the American news media it's all pope all the time, a tsunami of papal coverage, and until a new pope is named, the tide won't quit. You'd be forgiven for concluding that he'll actually have significant sway over Catholics in this country.

He won't, not over the majority of them, not in any immediate sense. And it's worth pausing, amid this hoopla, to remember that. In large parts of the Roman Catholic world, certainly in North America and Western Europe, most Catholics don't feel any particular debt or duty to the self-appointed caretakers of their church. They don't feel bound by the pope's interpretation of doctrine or moral commands. And many regard him and other Vatican officials as totems, a royal family of dubious relevance, partly because these officials have often shown greater concern for the church's reputation than for the needs, and wounds, of the people in the pews.

The blanket coverage of matters papal is deceptive, a function to some degree of habit and convenience. We in the media love the clear-cut drama of transitions. They're easy to grasp and frame. And in the case of the Vatican, they come with majestic visual backdrops, colorfully costumed characters: a pageant extraordinaire. It looks splendid on the front page and even better on the nightly news. We traffic in celebrities, and the pope qualifies as one. We also relish the narrative of any winner-take-all contest in which there are multiple hopefuls, murky dynamics and a familiar brand of suspense. This informs the way we approach presidential elections, focusing on the horse race. It explains all the cook-offs, the sing-offs, the analyses of the face-off between "Argo" and "Lincoln" for Best Picture. The papal selection process is in one sense "Top Chef" without the cooking. It's the ecclesiastical Oscars. It fits a mold, regardless of import.

There's import, certainly. The Roman Catholic Church is a worldwide organization with enormous financial resources; with a network of charities and agencies

that provide crucial help to the downtrodden; and with parishes in which the prayerful nurture their relationship with God. And the pope is its CEO, ultimately responsible for where the money flows and for the placement and policing of its staff. The policing part matters, as the child sexual abuse crisis made agonizingly clear.

But the trend over the last half-century has been for the prayerful in this country to feel less invested in that organization, less attached to its traditions. Polls chart a decline in churchgoing among American Catholics and a robust disobedience.

A 2011 survey published in the National Catholic Reporter showed that while 73 percent of American Catholics described their belief in Jesus' resurrection as "very important" to them, only 30 percent described the teaching authority of the Vatican that way, and only 21 percent characterized an all-male, celibate priesthood in those terms. More than 60 percent supported the ordination of women as priests.

When it comes to divorce, premarital sex, abortion and more, Catholics routinely break with the church's edicts. Pew polling last year found that more than half of American Catholics support same-sex marriage, which church leaders vociferously oppose. This particular renunciation of church teaching travels beyond the United States. Spain, Portugal and Argentina have legalized same-sex marriage; all have populations that are more than 75 percent Catholic, at least nominally.

A Gallup poll last year showed that 82 percent of American Catholics had no qualms about birth control. Church leaders do, and during the presidential campaign they railed against President Barack Obama's health care reform for mandating insurance coverage of contraception. He won the Catholic vote anyway.

Andrew Cuomo certainly doesn't sweat the church's ire the way his father did. Three decades ago Mario Cuomo felt the need for a major address at the University of Notre Dame to explain the discrepancy between his support for abortion rights and the church's anti-abortion position. Without any such hand-wringing, his son is plotting to shore up abortion rights in New York. Andrew Cuomo also lobbied for, and signed, New York's gay marriage law. Divorced, he lives outside of wedlock with Sandra Lee. There's been no Notre Dame soul-baring about any of this.

Does the pope fully appreciate this drift? Every Sunday, he looks from his window onto St. Peter's Square and sees adoring, rapt masses. Everywhere he goes, traffic parts and cameras follow him. But here in the U.S., the Catholics watching closely are fewer and fewer. They're Christian. They're caring. They're moral. But they have minds and wills of their own, and no conclave will change that. □



Oscar For Best Fabrication



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON — I saw "Argo" with Jerry Rafshoon, who was a top aide to President Jimmy Carter during the Iranian hostage crisis, when six Americans escaped and were given sanctuary for three months by courageous Canadian diplomats.

We were watching a scene where a CIA guy can't get through to Hamilton Jordan, Carter's chief of staff, to sign off on plane tickets for the escaping hostages, so he pretends to be calling from the school where Jordan's kids go.

"Hamilton wasn't married then and didn't have any kids," Jerry whispered, inflaming my pet peeve about filmmakers who make up facts in stories about real people to add "drama," rather than just writing the real facts better. It makes viewers think that realism is just another style in art, so that no movie, no matter how realistic it looks, is believable.

The affable and talented Ben Affleck has admitted that his film's climax, with Iranian Revolutionary Guard officers jumping in a jeep, chasing the plane down the runway and shooting at it, was fabricated for excitement. Hollywood always wants it both ways, of course, but this Oscar season is rife with contenders who bank on the authenticity of their films until it's challenged, and then fall back on the "Hey, it's just a movie" defense.

"Zero Dark Thirty," "based on firsthand accounts of actual events," has been faulted for leaving the impression that torture was instrumental in the capture of Osama. It celebrates

Jessica Chastain's loner character, "Maya," when it could have more accurately and theatrically highlighted "The Sisterhood," a team of female CIA analysts who were part of the long effort.

And then there's the kerfuffle over "Lincoln," which had three historical advisers but still managed to make some historical bloopers. Joe Courtney, a Democratic congressman from Connecticut, recently wrote to Steven Spielberg to complain that "Lincoln" falsely showed two of Connecticut's House members voting "Nay" against the 13th Amendment for the abolition of slavery.

"They were trying to be meticulously accurate even down to recording the ticking of Abraham Lincoln's actual pocket watch," Courtney told me. "So why get a climactic scene so off base?" Courtney is pushing for Spielberg to acknowledge the falsity in the DVD, a quest that takes on more urgency now that Spielberg has agreed to provide a DVD to every middle and high school that requests it.

Tony Kushner, the acclaimed playwright who wrote the screenplay, told me he was outraged that Courtney was getting his 15 minutes by complaining about a 15-second bit of film on a project that Kushner worked on for seven years.

The writer completely rejects the idea that he has defamed Connecticut, or the real lawmakers who voted "Aye." He said that in historical movies, as opposed to history books where you go for "a blow-by-blow account," it is completely acceptable to "manipulate a small detail in the service of a greater historical truth. History doesn't always organize itself according to the rules of drama. It's ridiculous. It's like saying that Lincoln didn't have green socks, he had blue socks." He feels that if he had changed the margin of the vote, or made someone a villain who was not in real life, that would have been inappropriate. (He's one-up on Shakespeare there.) But he wants "wiggle room" on some things. Spielberg's production people called the National Archives in

2011 to get a copy of the original voting roll and to plumb deeply into the details of the vote on one of America's most searing moral battles, even asking whether the vote was recorded in a bound volume or on loose ledger forms. That roll shows that the first two votes cast were "Nays" by Democratic congressmen from Illinois, Lincoln's own state. Wasn't that enough to show the tension? Kushner explained that in his original script he thought, as in the musical "1776" or the Continental Congress or conventions, the lawmakers voted by state, so Connecticut would have been one of the first Union states to vote.

Harold Holzer, a Lincoln historian attached to the film, pointed out the mistake to Spielberg and Kushner, telling them that voting in those days was done alphabetically by lawmaker. But Kushner said the director left the scene unchanged because it gave the audience "place holders," and it was "a rhythmic device" that was easier to follow than "a sea of names." They gave fake names to the Connecticut legislators, who were, he said, "not significant players."

Yet The Wall Street Journal noted, "The actual Connecticut representatives at the time braved political attacks and personal hardships to support the 13th Amendment." One, the New London Republican Augustus Brandegee, was a respected abolitionist and a friend of Lincoln. The other, the New Haven Democrat James English, considered slavery "a monstrous injustice" and left his ill wife to vote. When he said "Aye," applause began and the tide turned.

I'm a princess-and-the-pea on this issue, but I think Spielberg should refilm the scene or dub in "Illinois" for "Connecticut" before he sends out his DVDs and leaves students everywhere thinking the Nutmeg State is nutty.

Kushner says that won't happen, because this is a "made-up issue" and a matter of "principle." But as Courtney notes: "It was Lincoln who said, 'Truth is generally the best vindication against slander.'" □



Jonathon Sawyer of Greenhouse Tavern in Cleveland, uses many locally grown ingredients in his dishes. Local-movement chefs, depending often on geography, muscle through the colder months, while others make compromises.

(Barney Taxel/The New York Times)

DAN SALTZSTEIN

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK – Locally grown. Market-sourced. Farm to table: These phrases have become the mantras of the American menu, promising ingredients that are supremely fresh, in season and produced within a tight radius of the restaurant. But what can they possibly mean in the dead of winter, in northerly climes where farms are battened down and the earth is as hard as a raw cabbage? In some restaurant kitchens, they mean a larder full of root vegetables, grains, dried beans and cellared fruits, as well as a lot of curing, pickling and preserving. Other, more ambitious restaurants turn to greenhouses or new vegetable hybrids.

And many inevitably resort to a certain amount of well-intentioned cheating. "At some point, you're inherently a hypocrite," said Marc Meyer, the chef at Cookshop, in Chelsea. "You can't make a menu of turnips, rutabagas and potatoes."

Even chefs like him who are devoted to local and seasonal foods have to make exceptions, including the occasional FedEx package. Meyer's winter menus include dishes that straddle

the indigenous and the imported, like line-caught Long Island swordfish with cauliflower (also from Long Island) and chicory (from Florida), dressed with Meyer lemon (California) and topped with wedges of blood orange (California again).

Total purity, Meyer said, is a nice idea, yet all but impossible: "What about chocolate? What about olive oil? Spices?"

"Go for it if you can," he added. "I just can't with a 100-seat restaurant."

Dan Barber's kitchen at Blue Hill at Stone Barns, in Pocantico Hills, N.Y., buys many of its ingredients from the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, an independent nonprofit organization on the same grounds that operates 80 acres of farmland (six and a half of them for vegetables), a 22,000-square-foot greenhouse and outdoor rows of plants shielded by a protective covering. In addition, he and his team (as well as a full-time vegetable farm manager, Jack Algiere, and his crew) work with agricultural scientists at Cornell University on breeding winter-friendly vegetables, including a small, intensely sweet butternut squash they call the honeynut.

Locally grown; not left out in the cold

Barber pointed out that many of the strategies that chefs employ in winter, like fermentation or cold storage, are nothing new. "A lot of these techniques are ancient and brilliant, and evolved out of desperation," he said.

Perhaps buoyed by the more modern technologies involved in breeding, he said that in some ways he preferred cooking in the winter months. "At what point can I make the greatest impression?" he said. "People's expectations are lower, and it's easier to exceed them."

Barber isn't the only chef who welcomes the cold-weather challenge. "We sort of look at winter the

and rose wine, and has a running stock of preserved items. He said relationships with local farmers become all the more important in winter, for securing ingredients like grains (in particular, farro, an Ohio specialty), shelled beans and legumes.

But even the word "local" can fall prey to some fudging.

"There's a very famous farmer who, when I met him years ago, had a 20-mile radius" of restaurants he'd sell to, Barber said. "And last year when I talked to him, he said he was delivering to a restaurant 28 miles away."

What happened to 20? "All purists have their nego-

Whence 200? "I believe I read it somewhere," Regan said.

If there's one thing about winter cooking that chefs seem to agree on, it's that the toughest time isn't the middle of the season, but the end.

"For me, the hardest months are March and April," Barber said. "Storage starts to run out and you're sick of the root vegetables."

The result, for some, is chef-envy.

"I went down to San Francisco a couple of weeks ago," Wetzel said. "It was making me jealous. Things I don't see until June or May, they have on their plates in December."

For Bearman of Rouge Tomato, flying in an item or two is particularly tempting in late winter, when customers expect early-spring all-stars like ramps and asparagus.

"There's definitely times where, if we see great fava beans or great peas coming out of Jacopi Farm in California, we probably cheat a little bit," he said. "But then we switch when it comes into season here." By some measures, circumstances for Northern chefs are improving. Meyer noted the increased vibrancy of farmers' markets, including the Greenmarket initiative in New York.

"A few years ago, there was no radicchio, no treviso," he said. "You're seeing more variety."

Others even see a benefit from global warming.

"I hate to say it, but it's true," Sawyer said. "We got artichokes in Ohio all the way into November this year. Maybe December."

Then again, restraints are sometimes a good thing. Bearman said the bounty of late summer could be overwhelming: "You find yourself thinking, 'What am I going to do on my menu?'" □



Stuffed Semolina Pasta is served at Greenhouse Tavern utilizing many of the kitchen's stock of expertly preserved ingredients in Cleveland.

(Barney Taxel/The New York Times)

way an old-school chef looks at frugality," said Jonathon Sawyer of the Greenhouse Tavern, in Cleveland. "We take more time with dishes because we have less to put on the plate."

Sawyer, whose restaurant's website includes a manifesto on "Sustainability Initiatives," bottles his own line of vinegars, including ones made from craft beer

tiabes," Barber said.

Ilana Regan, whose Chicago restaurant, Elizabeth, has won attention for its emphasis on local ingredients, many of them foraged by Regan, has a somewhat broader definition. Almost everything on her menu "is Midwestern, though perhaps out of state lines," she said. "We're probably breaking the 200-mile rule."